

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

The Security Arrangements Committee met at the French contingent's headquarters in Beirut to discuss issues related to the cease-fire while limited exchanges of fire continued in several areas of the capital, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Sources at the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne disclosed that the committee to supervise the cease-fire has proposed the formation of a 2,000-strong volunteer force of observers to be deployed along the contact lines, the radio said. The conference will resume on 15 March. Meanwhile, all delegations attended a banquet hosted by President Amin al-Jumayyil the previous evening, the Voice of Lebanon noted. Earlier, Al-Jumayyil and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam separately received delegation heads in an attempt to formulate a draft declaration of principles for adoption by the conference. The radio said the draft focuses on administrative decentralization, the three main political posts, and the formation of a national unity government.

In his speech to the conference on 14 March, reported by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt reaffirmed his demand that Al-Jumayyil be "brought to account," insisted on the abolition of political sectarianism, and rejected the Christian plan for a federal system in favor of a "Lebanese Arab republic." However, a Lebanese Forces statement reported by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon rejected Lebanon's Arab identity and all forms of "weakness," stressing the Christian militia's determination to follow the late Bashir al-Jumayyil's line of "resistance." Nevertheless, the Phalange Party Political Bureau earlier emphasized the need to stabilize the cease-fire, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Syria

Officers' Arrest — Authorities recently arrested 49 officers on treason charges although another 20 officers suspected of links with this group managed to flee to Jordan, the Tel Aviv *HA'ARETZ* reported.

Commentary on U.S. Policy — President Reagan's 13 March speech to U.S. Jews confirms the "sickness" of U.S. Middle East policy and proves the president's "ignorance" of the region's affairs, Damascus radio contended in a 14 March commentary. After criticizing U.S. "partiality" toward Israel, the radio denied Reagan's claim that Syria endangers Jordan, asserting that the current strained relations between Syria and Jordan are the result of U.S. pressure on Jordan to enter into the Camp David "conspiracy" and the Reagan plan.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat in YAR — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a Palestinian Supreme Military Council meeting

in San'a' and is expected to hold talks soon with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, San'a' radio announced.

Athens Arrest — An armed Palestinian who was arrested in Athens admitted planning to murder the chief of the Israeli diplomatic mission there, the Athens *MESIMVRINI* reported.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

The Egyptians are violating the agreement with Israel by maintaining a military "infrastructure" that would allow them to place a "full field army beyond the Suez Canal within a few hours if they wish to," Defense Minister Moshe Arens announced in remarks reported by the Tel Aviv *MA'ARIV*. Such actions raise doubts as to "what will really grow in the Sinai sands," the minister added.

Iran-Iraq War

Arab Conference Ends — The Arab foreign ministers emergency conference concluded its meetings in Baghdad on 14 March with the adoption of a number of resolutions pertaining to the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, INA announced. Among these resolutions is a demand for Iran to "immediately commit itself" to a decision to stop the fighting and respond to peace initiatives, condemnation of Iran's continuing "aggression" against Iraq, praise for Iraq's readiness to begin negotiations to end the war, and commitment to the 12th Arab summit resolution which stresses the need for Arab solidarity and which considers an act of aggression against any Arab country to be aggression against all other Arab countries, INA stated. The conference also warned Iran that its continuation of the war would force the Arab states to reconsider their relations with it. The conference formed a committee composed of the foreign ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, the YAR, and the Arab League secretary general to follow up the implementation of the resolutions, INA reported. The Iraqi foreign minister described the conference as a "great success" and expressed satisfaction with the results which represent "solidarity with Iraq," INA added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in talks with conference participants reported by INA, asserted that Iraq has prepared itself to meet any new Iranian attack "in a way that will make our confrontation decisive."

Military Situation — Iraqi forces repulsed another enemy attack east of Basra, killing 1,728 Iranians and destroying 4 tanks, Iraq announced in a 14 March military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, Tehran radio said Iranian forces were continuing to consolidate their new positions in the Talayah area, having killed or wounded over 500 Iraqis and destroyed several tanks. Meanwhile, a UN fact-finding delegation visited the Iranian side of the southern front to inspect evidence of Iraqi chemical bombings, IRNA noted. Commenting

on this issue, Tehran radio said the Soviet Union's criticism of the U.S. decision to send experts to investigate Iraq's use of chemical weapons provides "food for thought."

Iraq

Iraq is "prepared to recognize Israel's right to exist," according to remarks made by the Iraqi deputy foreign minister in Washington and quoted by Jerusalem radio. The Iraqi official also "firmly denied" allegations that his country is using chemical weapons in its war with Iran. He called on the United States, Japan, and Europe to boycott Iranian oil and thereby "bankrupt" the country, the radio added.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan met with a visiting Soviet delegation led by CPSU Central Committee member Yakov Ryabov on 14 March, INA stated. The Soviet official said his delegation's visit at this particular time indicates the depth of relations between the two countries. He affirmed the USSR's desire to expand relations and its readiness to increase its contribution toward implementing "development and strategic projects" in Iraq, INA reported.

Iran

The 14 March Cabinet session discussed the justice minister's request to resign from his post in order to participate in the upcoming Majlis elections, Tehran radio reported.

Meanwhile, the delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Algiers for Romania after holding talks with several high-ranking Algerian officials, Tehran radio stated.

Libya

Libya is to be divided into "defensive regions" with responsibility for the defense of each region resting with the inhabitants, according to a statute issued on 13 March and broadcast by Tripoli radio. All Libyans of a prescribed age will be militarily trained in a "continuous manner" as long as they are physically able, with the acceptance that military institutions continue to apply solely to males "only as long as necessary," the statute added.

Western Sahara

The SDAR defense minister was killed in recent battles between Polisario and Moroccan forces, according to Rabat press reports cited by KUNA.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting Concludes Work

14 March Working Session

JN141508 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1456 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — The Arab delegations taking part in the Arab foreign ministers emergency conference began another working session here a short while ago which is believed to be the last. The delegations will discuss a resolution prepared by a five-member committee that emanated from the first session, which was held this morning. The resolution concerns the threats of the continuing Iranian aggression against Iraq and its effects on the region. The committee is made up of representatives from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the PLO, and Iraq.

The conference formed a follow-up committee that is made up of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, the YAR, and the Arab League secretary general. The committee will follow up the implementation of the conference resolutions and will meet periodically as necessary.

PLO Envoy Speech

JN141956 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO delegation to the emergency Arab foreign ministers' meeting that began its work in Baghdad this morning, has emphasized that an immediate halt to the Iraqi-Iranian war is a pressing objective whose achievement cannot be delayed. This came in the PLO speech which he delivered this morning at the first working session of this emergency meeting, which Iraq called in order to discuss developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Abu Mazin reviewed the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war and its threatening consequences and said: This war, which has continued for more than 3 years causing human and economic catastrophes, has consumed all the achievements of both the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and diverted them from continuing the march of construction and progress in their countries. He affirmed that this war has distracted Iraq from contributing to our central pan-Arab battle — the battle of regaining the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He added that the Palestinian people and all the Arabs are in great need of Iraq's great potentials to support us and the Arab nation.

Regarding these facts, Abu Mazin said that the PLO, represented by its chairman Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], made an initiative at the beginning of the war aimed at exerting all efforts to stop it. He added that this war also prompted some Arab brothers, especially Kuwait, Algeria, and the UAE to make efforts to halt the bloodshed. He asked the conferees in this meeting to study all the efforts that were made and to point out the reasons for their failure to halt the war. By conducting this study, the meeting will have a clearer vision and a more accurate way of defining the responsibility in order to exert more effective efforts to realize the objective of halting the war — which Abu Mazin said could not be delayed.

Abu Mazin noted that Iraq approved all mediation efforts and expressed a positive attitude toward these efforts at a time when the Iranian side had been closing the door on these efforts. More than this, Iran's claim, which was declared at the beginning of the war, is presently refuted. He added: In view of all these facts and the danger of the war escalating and expanding, the continuation of this war will also open the door wide for Israel to move freely wherever it desires and to extend its expansion into very delicate zones within the pan-Arab scope.

Concluding his speech, Abu Mazin stressed on behalf of the Palestinian delegation the need to meet the commitments that were decided at the Fes Arab summit in 1982. He affirmed that the PLO supports any effort that meets consensus to halt this bloodshed and close the door before the region becomes an arena for a continued superpower struggle, as well as to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This is in addition to keeping Iraq an asset for the Arab nation and a supporter of its pan-Arab causes as well as maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty within the agreements that both sides approve, based on the principle of non-interference in each other's domestic affairs.

Possible Trade Boycott

GF151051 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 15-21 Mar 84 p 1

[Excerpts] Arab states are planning moves to persuade major industrial nations to stop dealing with Iran, Iraq's foe in the Gulf war, informed sources at a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers in Baghdad said yesterday. The sources said there would be no specific threat of sanctions if the major industrial nations did not stop dealing with Iran. However, they would be promised compensation for lost business with oil and fresh contracts in the Arab world. Italy, West Germany, Japan and Britain were described as the main targets of the plan, which Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz was pushing in backstage deals at the conference, which opened yesterday. The sources said Saudi Arabia, Jordan and other powers attending the conference were agreed on this approach, and an acceptable public formula was being hammered out at a closed-door session.

According to sources, Iraq was also pressing its Arab League partners to accept the principle that no Arab nation would try to mediate with Iran in the Gulf war, an implicit rejection of rumoured mediation by Algeria. Instead, Iraq wants the Arab world to adopt a common "peace policy" designed to put pressure on Iran to end the war.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Envoys Cited

GF141532 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (WAKH) — Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has described the talks which were held in the first session today as excellent. In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad, he said the speeches which were delivered had one direction and they aimed at ending the war. Asked if the GCC countries intend to resume the mediation between Iraq and Iran, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said

that all the conferees desire an end to the war and everyone is working for this goal. He said: The Arab foreign ministers came here to adopt a unified stance.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, expressed his optimism in achieving positive results. He said: The conference will achieve the results to which we all aspire and the excellent atmosphere of the conference indicates that.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said that the discussions of the morning session were excellent. He said that everything will be announced [passage indistinct].

Conference Ends

JN141553 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1542 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — The Arab foreign ministers emergency conference concluded its meetings here today. The conference adopted a number of resolutions condemning the Iranian regime for its continuing war against Iraq, and praising Iraq's peaceful stands and its desire to establish peace between the two countries. The conference formed a follow-up committee. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi will hold a press conference tonight in which he will announce the conference's resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the conference has been a great success. In a statement to reporters after the meeting, 'Aziz said that he was satisfied with the results of the conference because they represent an Arab solidarity with Iraq in its battle against Iranian aggression.

Conference Resolutions

JN141827 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — The following is the text of the resolutions issued by the Arab foreign ministers emergency conference held in Baghdad on 14 March:

The Arab League Council on the foreign ministers level, in an emergency meeting in Baghdad on Wednesday, 14 March 1984 views with utmost concern the escalation and continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war because Iran is not responding to any peaceful initiatives and is insisting on continuing its armed aggression against Iraq, threatening the Arab region as a whole, and recently mounting a series of large-scale military offensives against Iraq with the aim of penetrating its international borders and occupying its territory.

The conference recalls the resolution passed by the 12th Arab summit conference, which was held in Fes, Morocco, from 6-9 September 1983 — a resolution that stressed the need for Arab solidarity and unity of ranks; considered every aggression against any Arab country to be an aggression against the other Arab countries; and that safeguarding the Arab nation's independence, territorial integrity, and the sanctity of its international borders is a duty that all the Arab countries should respect and work for with all the means available to them. The resolution declared that

the Arab countries were ready to carry out their commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Article VI of the Arab League Charter, Article II of the Arab Collective Defense Pact, and the Arab League's economic cooperation agreement, if Iran does not respond to the contents of this resolution, continues the war against Iraq, and attempts to penetrate its international borders and occupy its territory.

The conference, therefore, decides the following:

1. Demanding from Iran to immediately commit itself to a decision to stop the fighting and respond to the peace initiatives in a way that guarantees the rights of the two sides and establishes good neighborly relations in order that peace and security may prevail in the region in the interest of the Arab and Islamic nations.

2. Condemning Iran's continuing aggressions against Iraq; its attempts to penetrate its international borders, occupy its territories, and interfere in its internal affairs; its insistence on continuing the war; and its failure to respond to the peace initiatives that call for ending the war and beginning negotiations to solve the problems between the two countries in a way that would guarantee the rights of both sides.

3. Praising Iraq's position toward the resolutions of the UN Security Council, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement, and Iraq's express readiness to stop the fighting and enter negotiations to reach a just, honorable solution.

4. Emphasizing commitment to the resolution of the 12th Fes Arab summit, which supports Iraq in its legitimate efforts to deter aggression and warns Iran that its continued war against Iraq — the Arab League member-state that accepted all peaceful initiatives — will force Arab countries to reconsider their relations with it.

5. Forming a committee comprising the foreign ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunis, Jordan, Morocco, the YAR, and the Arab League secretary general to follow up the implementation of these resolutions and the developments in the situation. This is in addition to carrying out initiatives and international contacts as well as taking measures to halt the war and to maintain security and stability in the region. This committee will also urge world countries to make peaceful efforts and to refrain from taking any direct or indirect measures that would lead to the continuation of war between the two countries. The committee will meet periodically when the circumstances merit a meeting. It will acquaint Arab countries with the decisions it reaches.

It is worth noting that all Arab countries, excluding Libya and Syria, attended this urgent meeting, which was devoted to discussing one single issue; namely, the dangerous situation that is threatening the entire Arab world in light of the escalating Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Iraq called for this meeting on 7 March 1984 in a message that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressed to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. In this message, Iraq explained the Iranian regime's intentions concerning the Iranian aggression — the intentions that were

openly declared; namely, occupying Iraq's territories, cities, and villages, and humiliating its freedom, honor, and independence as a prelude for controlling other parts of the Arab homeland.

Sources in the Arab League General Secretariat described this emergency meeting as one of the most successful of the Arab League's emergency meetings in terms of the number of participating country members, which was 19.

Jordanian, Qatari Envoys Comment

JN151024 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — The Qatari and Jordanian foreign ministers have described the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference, which met here yesterday, as a step on the way to uniting the Arab stand. In a statement to the *ATH-THAWRAH* newspaper published today, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, said that this conference crowned and crystallized the Arab efforts to make the world aware of the Arabs' concern for peace and security.

He expressed hope for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war as soon as possible, and that the international community will succeed in translating its desire to spare blood into a practical stand that will restore the confidence of the world's peoples in the abilities of the international community.

The Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said that during the emergency conference a true spirit of brotherhood emerged and there was a substantial consensus for supporting Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression.

In his statement to *ATH-THAWRAH* he added that the conference resolutions were on the level of responsibility expected of this meeting. He pointed out that the formation of a followup committee is a good step toward unifying the Arab stand and supporting Iraq. The minister renewed Jordan's support with all its potentials for Iraq in its just war in defense of its land.

Foreign Ministers Depart

JN141741 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — The Arab delegations, which participated in the Arab foreign ministers' emergency conference, began leaving Baghdad this evening following the end of the conference. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir Al-Masri, and Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah left Baghdad this evening. Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs Yesuf al-'Alawi, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Yusuf Al Thani also left Baghdad this evening.

'Arafat To Chair Palestinian Meetings in YAR

'Arafat Arrival

JN141718 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar arrived in San'a' from Saudi Arabia today on a visit of several days to the YAR. Upon his arrival in San'a', Abu 'Ammar made a statement in which he said that he will hold talks with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the latest issues and developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. Abu 'Ammar will chair the meetings of the Palestinian Supreme Military Council that will be held in San'a' next week. He will also open there next Tuesday the work of the 4th general congress of the General Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists.

Chairs Military Council Session

JN142046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] San'a', 14 mar (INA) — Meetings of the Palestinian Military Council under PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat began here this evening. During the meetings, a number of subject concerning the Palestinian question, its military plans for the next phase, and the conditions of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories will be discussed. In addition to these subjects, some issues concerning Palestinians fighters in host Arab countries will also be focused on. It is hoped that a special meeting of the Palestinian military commanders of the Fatah movement will begin tomorrow.

Further Details

GF150454 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The meeting of the Palestinian Supreme Military Council began in San'a' at 2100 yesterday under the chairmanship of Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. In a statement to SABA News Agency, a Palestinian source said during the meeting, which will last for 2 days, the Council will study the organizational situation of the Palestinian revolution forces and current Arab and international developments.

Meets YAR President

GF150446 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, at the presidential palace at 1930 local time. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, the present Arab situation in light of the current developments, and the events and challenges the Arab nation is experiencing. The two leaders also discussed bilateral struggle relations. The meeting was attended by Brother Hikmat

Zayd, PLO representative in San'a'. Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat arrived in San'a' earlier today.

Baghdad PLO Radio Reports Reagan Speech

*JN142030 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] U.S. President Reagan has re-emphasized his country's hostile stand on all the Arab nation's fateful causes, foremost of which is the Palestine question, through affirming continued U.S. support for the Zionist enemy and pledging to develop U.S.-Israeli relations. In a speech he delivered to the congress of what is called the United Jewish Appeal in Washington yesterday, Reagan said that since his assumption of responsibility, U.S.-Israeli relations have been witnessing rapprochement more than at any time before. He added that these relations developed in three fields, which he described as decisive. In this regard, he pointed out the military field and the U.S. decision to extend military aid to Israel in the form of grants, not loans. He reaffirmed that the United States will withdraw from the United Nations if Israel is forced to withdraw from it.

Fatah's Al-Hasan on Palestinian-Jordanian Talks

*PM141550 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Mar 84
pp 15-16*

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Salih Qallab in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Question: The statement issued on the Palestinian-Jordanian talks said that they will be resumed in the near future. That means that nothing specific has been achieved regarding the proposed political plans for the settlement of the Palestinian question.

Answer: That is correct, but the problem is neither on the Palestinian side nor on the Jordanian side. The problem is that 1984 is a year for accumulating cards. The Jordanian and Palestinian sides perceived a common concept of the nature of the present phase on the basis of which we will accumulate a number of cards which will enable us to confront the Zionist onslaught politically and militarily. We have agreed to initiate joint political moves at the Arab and international levels. As is commonly known, the Fes plan which we mentioned in our statement cannot be implemented unless there is an Arab military front parallel to the political front. Accordingly, the current Arab fragmentation must end and Arab ranks must be united behind the Palestinian cause. This means that the military front's lines should be redrawn to prevent any further Israeli adventures. That is why it is now necessary to support the PLO in such a way as to enable it to escalate its armed struggle in the occupied territories and abroad. We discussed this at length with our Jordanian brothers, and we arrived at a common concept. We decided to pay joint visits to a number of Arab states to build up Arab support for the people of the occupied territories. We also agreed that Europe's role in the next phase is important and decided to embark on joint moves in the direction of the European states and the Soviet Union.

Question: You talk about setting up an Arab military front. Did you take Syria into consideration when you discussed this point, and did you discuss the Iraq-Iran war?

Answer: Yes of course, without any doubt. We and the Jordanian side agreed that it is necessary to establish normal relations with Syria based on understanding. We in Fatah realize that it is absolutely necessary to rectify relations with Syria because it is impossible to have an effective military front without Syria. As regards the Iraq-Iran war, we have again underscored the need to put an end to that war at any cost because it is a bleeding wound which is draining Arab and Islamic resources.

Question: Did you agree on any specific steps regarding relations with Syria?

Answer: In our talks with the Jordanians we agreed on some clear principles, with each side retaining its own freedom of action. Fatah's Central Committee will at its next meeting make a comprehensive study of the results of the Amman talks and adopt the necessary decisions regarding all the matters agreed upon. I personally believe that we should work quietly with a view to opening the way for balanced Syrian-Palestinian relations based on respect for the independence of Palestinian national decisions.

Question: You mentioned that you discussed with the Jordanians the question of setting up a military front. Did you agree to set up some Palestinian military bases in Jordan?

Answer: I believe that it is premature to talk about this point. At present we are concerned with increasing the PLO's political presence in Jordan. The military topic will always be on the agenda of our dialogue.

Question: It is known that King Husayn visited the United States and met with Reagan before the talks. Did he inform you of any specific agreements he may have reached with the Americans?

Answer: During our first meeting with him, King Husayn said that while he was in the United States he did not get the impression that there were any settlement plans on the table. That is why we did not discuss the Reagan plan at all during our talks, because some of us believe that that plan is finished while others believe that it is frozen, under the circumstances. It was agreed that there was no plan for us to consider at present and that this is a year for accumulating cards. We decided to make joint moves in the direction of Europe and the Soviet Union to wrest a U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Question: Will your move toward Europe be aimed at reviving the Egyptian-French initiative?

Answer: Actually, Europe's present attitude implies more than the Egyptian-French initiative. Now that the PLO has managed to stand on its own feet after the series of blows dealt it, some European states are consulting among themselves with the aim of formulating a unified European stance which will become clear in the coming few months. It will then be possible to go to

the UN Security Council with more than the Egyptian-French initiative.

Question: By that do you mean a new European plan or simply European support in the Security Council?

Answer: Our target is a new European plan, but we cannot at this stage be sure of the chances of success for such a move. I believe that there are very good grounds for such a plan particularly since France and Austria are all for it while Britain and West Germany support the idea of producing a new plan from a mixture of the Fes plan, the Brezhnev initiative, the other initiatives, and the UN Security Council resolutions.

Question: There have been rumors about the possibility of a Jordanian-Palestinian-Iraqi-Egyptian bloc. Did you discuss with the Jordanians the question of a quadripartite conference involving the leaders of these four sides?

Answer: We and our Jordanian brothers reject the policy of blocs in the Arab world. What is needed is a mobilization of all Arab efforts to meet the challenges facing us. We will make a joint Palestinian-Jordanian effort to put an end to the policy of blocs which has wasted and squandered Arab resources.

Question: Did you consult with Saudi Arabia on this matter?

Answer: Yes, undoubtedly. When we talk about Arab forces we place Saudi Arabia at the top of the list because of its Arab and international weight and because of its special role vis-a-vis the United States. A high-ranking Palestinian delegation will visit Saudi Arabia within the next few days to acquaint it with the results of our Amman talks and to hold consultations with King Fahd on the nature of future steps. I want to emphasize here that we cannot take one single political step forward without Saudi support, just as we cannot take a single military step forward without Syria.

Question: What did you agree with the Jordanians on the question of federation of confederation?

Answer: We had in the past agreed on a number of points regarding this matter and left some other points pending. We agreed that future Palestinian-Jordanian relations will be on a confederal basis. The question at present is how to defend ourselves against an imminent aggression. We must always remember that [Israeli Defense Minister] Arens, who now stands on occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, South Lebanon, and the Golan Heights, is looking for a new victim.

Question: This indicates that you did discuss the possibility of an Israeli aggression against Jordan?

Answer: Of course. The fact that Brother Abu 'Ammar and King Husayn attended a military exercise during the talks may not have been just a coincidence. We mean to say that we stand together against any Israeli move.

Question: Did you discuss with the Jordanians the question of convening a PNC session?

Answer: This is a Palestinian matter. It was discussed during Brother Abu 'Ammar's meeting with the Palestinian nationalist figures. It was decided to convene the PNC as soon as possible. It was also agreed during that meeting, which only the PFLP and Ahmad Jibril's group did not attend, that the argument about Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo will be settled at the next meeting of the PNC and that Brother Abu 'Ammar will abide by the PNC decisions whatever they may be. I believe that in the next 2 weeks there will be many Palestinian secret and public meetings, and the final date for the PNC session will be set after 15 March.

Question: There was talk in the past about the eviction of some Palestinians from Lebanon to Jordan. Did you discuss this issue?

Answer: Yes, of course. The Israeli plan in Lebanon was to force a large number of Palestinians to leave Lebanon for Jordan and also force a similar exodus from the West Bank to Jordan. Israel's aim is to create internal problems in Jordan so that Israel may use these problems as an excuse for a new aggression against that country. We discussed means of confronting this Israeli design and we also discussed ways of absorbing some of the Lebanese and Palestinian evacuees forced by events out of Lebanon in the direction of Jordan.

Question: We have heard about secret decisions taken during your dialogue with Jordan.

Answer: There were no secret decisions. We merely agreed on joint moves in the direction of the Arab world, Europe, and the Soviet Union. We must not forget that Jordan is also in a position to move in the direction of the United States. I do not deny the fact that we agreed on certain methods of movement which will be announced in due course. A Palestinian-Jordanian delegation will shortly visit the Soviet Union because we are convinced of the importance of this superpower's role.

Question: It is being said here that agreement on joint delegations implies agreement to send a joint delegation to any negotiations on the Palestinian question.

Answer: I must say here that throughout the talks the Jordanian brothers proved that they do not want to be a substitute for us. They want a balanced move between us and them. The final statement did stipulate that the PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people. Note here the significance of the words "and sole" in this sentence.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Resistance Operations

*JN141845 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men carried out several daring operations against the Zionist occupation forces in various areas in southern Lebanon. Resistance men this morning detonated an explosive charge by remote control when an Israeli military patrol was passing on As-Sabbagh road in Sidon. The roar of the explosion was heard throughout the entire city. Following the explosion, Israeli patrols rushed to the scene of the incident opening heavy fire from their machine guns.

Eyewitnesses said that an Israeli Land Rover was hit, but did not give further details because of the occupation forces' siege of the area. This operation took place less than 12 hours after an attack with hand grenades carried out by the resistance men against an Israeli military patrol in one of the streets in Sidon. The attack caused several casualties among the patrol's soldiers.

Joint resistance men attacked Israeli patrols in (?Al-Hamqariyah) and Az-Zahrani causing many casualties among the Zionist soldiers. The Zionist military spokesman admitted the resistance men's operations, and, as usual, he did not disclose the losses inflicted on the enemy forces.

Jordan, Algeria, Kuwait Confer With FRG on Canal

JN150901 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT

14 Mar 84

[Text] Bonn — The ambassadors of Jordan, Algeria, and Kuwait in Bonn have conferred with senior officials at the FRG Foreign

Ministry. During the meeting, they reviewed issues of common interest, particularly the Mediterranean-Dead Seas canal which Israel wants to implement. The Arab ambassadors affirmed the seriousness of this project and its violation of international laws and UN resolutions. They explained that Israel is pursuing a policy aimed at annexing the occupied Arab territories and altering their historical, geological, and economic features. They notified the FRG Foreign Ministry that the participation of FRG businessmen and companies in implementing this canal project will have a negative effect on the political and economic relations between the FRG and Arab countries. The FRG side showed understanding of the Arab viewpoint. Jordan's ambassador to the FRG Fawwaz Sharaf presented an official memorandum concerning the canal project.

BAHRAIN

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ Hails Baghdad Conference
GF150906 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 Mar (WAKH) — Commenting on the success of the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference, which was held in Baghdad, the Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* said today: The conference was successful in the way in which it attracted attention, in the speed with which it was convened, in the number of countries which attended and the level of the representation of delegations, and in the speed with which it reached clear-cut resolutions in support of Iraq, in solidarity with it in its war against aggression.

The newspaper described the Baghdad conference as a conference of peace, whose primary message was to stop the war which is sapping two Muslim countries and which threatens other Muslim countries due to its proximity to them, a phenomenon which only benefits the enemies of Islam.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ said: It was natural for the Arab countries participating in the conference to address their warning to Iran — the party which is trying to prolong the war and rejects mediation — by reviewing their relations with it so long as it continues in its transgression without any regard to repercussions.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ called on Iran to immediately respond to this warning so that it will not lose the friendship of the entire Arab nation, which carries weight in the world. Iran is, of course, the loser, because its friends are so few and its continuation of the war against Iraq will make it the most isolated country in the civilized world, the paper said.

In conclusion, the newspaper called on the Arab countries to carry out their obligations to Iraq within the Arab charters — "such as the Fes summit resolutions on joint defense if any Arab country is subjected to aggression from a foreign country" — if this warning produces no results, and if Iran continues to be obstinate.

KUWAIT

Amir Receives YAR President's Envoy, Message
LD141101 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar (KUNA) — The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, today received Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, personal envoy of the YAR president, who conveyed a message from the Yemeni president, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

It is reported the message concerns relations between the two countries. Further information about the message was not available.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Returns From Baghdad Meeting
GF141954 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned home today after leading the Sultanate's delegation to the emergency conference of the Arab foreign ministers, which concluded its meetings in Baghdad today.

PDRY

YSP Chairman Receives PLF Secretary General
GF141953 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Hadramawt Governorate today, accompanied by a number of party and state officials, on an inspection visit to the governorate.

The radio correspondent noted that upon his arrival, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad received at his residence in Al-Mukalla Brother Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], who is visiting the republic at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee.

During this meeting, cooperation relations between the YSP and the front and the means to develop and strengthen them were discussed. The current situation in the Arab arena in general and the Palestinian arena in particular were also reviewed. During the meeting, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reaffirmed the principled and firm stance of the PDRY party, government, and people in support of the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people, under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, for their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish their national independent state. He pointed out the importance of strengthening the unity of the Palestinian revolutionary forces' struggle, within the framework of the PLO, as an indispensable condition to confronting the hostile challenges and the capitulatory plans which intend to liquidate the Palestinian question.

The brother secretary general saluted the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people and their heroic steadfastness against the Zionist occupation and the conspiracies of the U.S.-Zionist alliance forces.

On his part, Brother Tal'at Ya'qub expressed his extreme appreciation for the PDRY's right and principled policy toward the Palestinian issue and its support for the Palestinian revolutionary factions, in order to strengthen the unity of their struggle and mobilize their capabilities to confront the dangers which threaten them. He expressed his satisfaction with the continued development of the struggle relations between the YSP and the PLF.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Returns From Baghdad Meeting GF150636 Doha QNA in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 14 Mar (QNA) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Doha from Baghdad tonight after participating in the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference which concluded its sessions there this evening.

Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani praised the results of the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference, saying: The conference was the crowning of Arab efforts, and was the crystallization of these efforts to let the world see and understand the Arabs' desire for peace and security — to show that they are not war-seekers but rather peace-seekers who are using all available means to stop the bloodshed and coexist with their neighbors and live in peace and amity with them.

In a statement upon arriving at Doha airport, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani expressed the hope that a solution to the conflict between Iraq and Iran will be reached quickly, and that the international community will be able to translate their aspirations of ending the bloodshed of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples through a practical stand that would reaffirm the world's peoples' confidence in the community's ability to take action. He also expressed the hope that the Iranian Government will respond to the peace calls which international and regional organizations have made, and that it will respond as the Iraqi Government has to these calls.

The Qatari minister affirmed that this will be the correct way to resolve the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. He noted that war is not the only means to settle differences, nor is it the best means of doing so.

AR-RAYAH on Baghdad Conference Resolutions GF150827 Doha QNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 15 Mar (QNA) — A Qatari daily today praised the results of the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference and described them as clear and frank, and that they generally meet the Arab citizens' expectations.

In its editorial, the newspaper *AR-RAYAH* said: After one of the few decisive Arab meetings, resolutions were issued yesterday by the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference in Baghdad. These resolutions meet the level of the grave developments threatening the entire Arab nation as a result of the serious escalation in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

AR-RAYAH continued: These resolutions were clear and frank. They expressed the overwhelming majority's support of fraternal Iraq in its just stand in defense of its international border, the security of its people and its freedom of political, social and economic choices. At the same time, these resolutions represent a clear and decisive Arab stand toward Iran's continued aggression against Iraq and its continued attempts to pen-

etrate its border under one pretext or another, at the a when Iraq has responded to all settlement initiatives and peace efforts.

UAE

Jordanian Ministers Arrive for Brief Visit

GF141138 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Sulayman 'Arar, Jordanian deputy prime minister and interior minister, and Dr Hanna 'Awdah, Jordanian finance minister, arrived in the UAE on a brief visit. Sulayman 'Arar carries a message from His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to His Highness President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan.

Upon arrival, the two Jordanian ministers were received by Sa'id ad-Darmaki, chief of the Protocol Department.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Leaves for Egypt

GF150820 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 15 Mar (WAKH) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister A. R. Shamsud Doha left Dubayy for Cairo this morning after a 4-day visit to the UAE, during which he held talks with a number of senior UAE officials.

Visiting Eritrean Official Issues Statement

GF131418 Doha QNA in Arabic 1238 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Dubayy, 13 Mar (QNA) — Mr Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Central Council of the Eritrean Popular Liberation Forces, has called on Iran to respond immediately to the mediations that call for an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war, and to accept a peaceful solution to the dispute.

In a statement published here today in the newspaper *AL-BAYAN*, Mr Sabbe, who is currently visiting the UAE, called for using the resources that are being wasted by both sides to liberate the usurped Arab lands, foremost of which are the lands of Palestine, Eritrea and Western Somalia. He pointed out that continuing this war will benefit no one except the enemies of the Arabs and the Muslims.

The Eritrean official said that the Ethiopian region is preparing for a new campaign against the Eritrean revolutionaries in April, for which it has deployed 150,000 soldiers equipped with tanks, planes and chemical weapons in retaliation for the losses inflicted on the Ethiopian forces during previous campaigns, during which more than 5,000 troops were estimated to have been killed and \$100 million worth of equipment was destroyed.

Mr Sabbe called for the formation of a strategic alliance between Sudan and the Eritrean revolution in order to counter the plots intrigued by the Ethiopian regime with the support it receives from outside against Sudan and against the countries of the Horn of Africa.

Reaction to Reported Shifts on Jerusalem Status

Ghali on U.S. Embassy in Israel

NC150900 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has called on African countries to conduct more contacts and consultations to solve the controversial political issues dividing the continent and the crises threatening the upcoming OAU summit.

In an interview to be published in tomorrow's issue of *MAY*, Ghali says these issues not only threaten the upcoming OAU summit, but also jeopardize the African struggle against apartheid and the illegitimate occupation of Namibia by the South African regime.

Meanwhile, Dr Ghali notes that the ministerial conference held recently in Addis Ababa did not achieve the success pinned on it because of its failure to discuss the basic hot issues, foremost of which are the Western Sahara and Chad issues.

The state minister adds that the African tour which he will embark on 15 March stems from the principle of consultations with the African countries. During his tour, Dr Ghali will visit Nigeria, Ghana, and Upper Volta, and will deliver messages from President Mubarak to the presidents of these countries.

Ghali points out that the chief subjects to be discussed during his tour of those three African countries are the Western Sahara and Chad, the situation in the south of Africa, and the OAU's role. He will also discuss bolstering cooperation between Egypt and those countries in the various domains. Ghali also notes that the developments regarding the Nonaligned Movement and the movement's international role will also be part of the discussions he will have with the officials of these countries — all members of the Nonaligned Movement.

Dr Ghali also comments on the attempt by some Congressmen to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, saying: I find it hard to believe that any elected U.S. representative can agree to a measure which is diametrically opposed to the interests of their people and those of the United States throughout the Arab and Islamic world and nonaligned countries.

Dr Ghali expressed the hope that the majority of Congressmen have a clear and precise idea on the real status of Arab Jerusalem and what it represents for the three religions, and for the Arab and Islamic peoples as well as for the Christian world.

Commentary on Possible U.S. Move

NC141524 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary]

[Text] During the past few weeks, certain moves have emerged in the U.S. Congress auguring a serious transformation in the way the Zionist lobby exerts pressure on the U.S. Administration

in the interest of Israel. In the past, the Zionist lobby's moves were confined to blocking the way of any possible U.S. pressure on Israel. The Zionist lobby did not submit proposals opposed to the U.S. President's stand in favor of Israel except to increase financial aid. In addition, the initiatives of the Zionist lobby to pressure the U.S. President on certain political or diplomatic stands in favor of Israel did not go beyond releasing statements signed by a number of senators and representatives.

However, a serious development occurred in the Zionist lobby's moves in Congress within the past few weeks. This change is manifested in the submission of bills that completely adopt the Israeli views on differences regarding the peace process in the Middle East. For example, one of these bills, that was highlighted by a congressional subcommittee, would prevent the U.S. Government from dealing with, negotiating with, or recognizing the PLO. Another bill provides for moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; Israel unilaterally annexed its Arab half and declared it as its capital.

Something that cannot be understood in these congressional moves is that if the lobby succeeds in passing these bills or even some of them, they will torpedo the foundation upon which the role of the United States as peace maker in the Middle East is based — through its mediation efforts between Israel and the Arab countries. This role is primarily based on the fact that the United States holds views different from those of the Israeli within the framework of the U.S. commitment to Israel's security and survival. Should Congress eliminate this difference, that is, if Congress imposes a commitment to the Israeli views on the U.S. Government, it will turn the United States from a mediator in the conflict into an adversary of the Arab countries and an ally of Israel with a paralyzed will, even where marginal differences exist.

Naturally, the Reagan administration has expressed its concern over these trends in Congress. A U.S. State Department spokesman cautioned that a congressional decision to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem will harm U.S. mediation efforts in the Middle East, and moreover, it is an unconstitutional interference in the powers invested in the U.S. President. However, the legal argument is one thing and the struggle of wills that governs U.S. policy in general and in the Middle East in particular is another. True, we have seen instances in which the Zionist lobby managed to prevent various U.S. Presidents from translating their public differences with Israel on Arab rights into practical stands. However, we have seen cases in which certain U.S. Presidents triumphed over the Zionist lobby in fierce battles, such as the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia. Since politics is basically a language of interests, the instances in which the U.S. Presidents triumphed over the Zionist lobby were definitely those in which U.S. fears over their interests in the Arab countries triumphed. Thus, the latest change in the method by which the Zionist lobby applies congressional pressure on the White House necessitates counter Arab moves. The moves must be prompt and collective and extremely effective, and should caution the Americans about the dangers that confront their interests in the Arab countries resulting from the moves of the Zionist lobby.

OCTOBER Views Jerusalem Problem*PM141101 Cairo OCTOBER in Arabic 4 Mar 84 pp 12, 13*

[Mahmud 'Abd al-Mun'im Murad article: "Beware Jerusalem, It Is the Greatest Challenge"]

[Excerpts] Taking advantage of the current conflict in Lebanon on the Arab side, and the beginning of the U.S. election campaign on the American side, Israel is currently trying to take the most serious step forward regarding the matter of the city of Jerusalem. If the Palestinian problem is the crux of the Middle East conflict, as has been repeated thousands of times during the past years, the problem of Jerusalem in particular is the very essence of that problem, the most complicated point concerning it, and its most serious aspect.

Although signs indicate that Israel is proceeding with its expansionist plans to annex the Golan, West Bank, Gaza Sector, and southern Lebanon, Israel has thus far not taken a decisive step on the question of Jerusalem because of its realization that this problem is the most dangerous and serious one. However, it is now attempting to take this step, believing that the Arabs and Muslims are totally absent, and that the Jewish votes in the U.S. presidential elections are capable of defusing the Jerusalem mine. Israel has been able to tackle the most complex point of the most difficult problem — the question of Jerusalem and its position in the Palestine problem.

Last week the Israeli newspaper *HAARETZ* published an interview with U.S. Democratic candidate Walter Mondale in which he said he favors transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He also said that if he were elected, he would cancel Reagan's Middle East initiative.

In view of these statements we should all tell Mr Mondale: If you are elected President of the United States you are free to cancel or retain Reagan's initiative, but as for the question of Jerusalem, you should be seriously warned from every side: Beware of the question of Jerusalem. This is not only a political matter, but also one of history and dogma. It is the question of a holy city that embraces relics and places of worship to which the hearts of 800 million Muslims and 1 billion Christians are attached, as against only 5 million Jews who claim the city is theirs alone and that it should be the capital of their state whose exact boundaries no one knows.

The active Zionist elements in the United States are doing everything they can to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. decisionmakers so that Reagan will approve transferring his embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. But Reagan is thus far resisting the Zionist pressure. With typical Zionist cunning, Israel wants to make this issue a point of competition between Reagan and Mondale in the coming election campaign. It is the duty of the Muslims and Christians, as well as the reasonable Jews in the world to draw attention to the dangerous game Israel is playing now before it becomes too late.

If everything in politics is subject to give and take and discussion, the question of Jerusalem should be kept far removed from the game of politics. It is not a piece of land like the rest of the Arab lands; it is not an oil source that countries should rush to grab,

or a strategic position that the conflicting powers are vying to occupy. It is a holy city whose every stone represents historical and religious memories cherished by all who believe in God, his books, and prophets beginning with Abraham and down to Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad. May God's prayers be upon them. The U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance cannot alter the city's identity, nor can Israel's atomic bomb remove from the hearts of believers in God their belief in its holiness. Therefore, this city should be the objective on which the views and wills of all who believe in the holy books should agree. It should not be a point of difference between those who differ on politics or on religion.

It should be pointed out that the Camp David accords between As-Sadat, Carter, and Begin were the subject of undeniable differences. However, this was not so in the case of Jerusalem which everyone then avoided raising just like avoiding setting off a mine the consequences of whose explosion no one can predict. President As-Sadat had sent a detailed letter to President Carter at that time affirming that Arab Jerusalem should remain Arab. Carter acknowledged receipt of the letter and noted its contents. But Begin committed himself to nothing, although his position was negative. Begin, despite his fanaticism, intransigence, and extremism, was unable to raise the question of the Jerusalem problem at that time because he realized it could be the rock upon which all the peace efforts would shatter.

It is true that successive Israeli governments since 1967, and since the occupation of the West Bank, have been trying to Judaize Jerusalem, and have never stopped making such attempts during the past 17 years. However, the greatest danger today is that after a period of preparations, Israel is approaching a period of consecration; that is, making Jerusalem a unified Jewish city and declaring it its capital with international recognition particularly backed by a U.S. recognition. As we are talking about Jerusalem, we cannot just utter words like the millions of words uttered on the occupied territories, Palestinian problem, and Arab-Israeli conflict. In this case we are here talking about Jerusalem, and talking about this city has a special impact.

When the late King Faysal uttered his famous saying before he died, "I wish to pray in Jerusalem," he did not say this for no reason. This wish is the very essence of the problem between Arabs and Jews. Also, it was not for nothing that the ICO decided to establish a special permanent committee on Jerusalem headed by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, since Jerusalem can never be far from the mind of any Muslim Arab, or be forgotten by any Christian in the world. This city will remain a special city. It is not just a piece of land, nor a capital of a state, nor merely part of the West Bank. It is a holy city in which the memories of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad will live forever.

We should not forget Jerusalem in the midst of the present conflicts. We should not allow the U.S. elections become the golden opportunity for Israel to change the status of Jerusalem. We should accept this great challenge. We hope the U.S. policy will be cognizant of the problem of Jerusalem after it has failed in the Palestinian and Lebanese problems, and the problem of the Middle East in general. Once again we say: Beware of Jerusalem for it is a different problem.

Sources on Government Contacts With East Europe
 PM141253 London *AL-MAJALLAH* in Arabic 10-16 Mar 84 p 8

[From "*AL-MAJALLAH* Correspondents' Dispatches"]

[Text] *AL-MAJALLAH* has learned from informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that contacts have recently been held with certain East European capitals with the aim of restoring diplomatic relations between Egypt and those states, especially Bulgaria and the GDR. The sources say these contacts have made "tangible progress."

President Husni Mubarak said in a statement published by *AL-AHRAM* that the "return of the Soviet ambassador to Cairo will take place at the right time" and that "the Soviet Union is a superpower and should naturally play a primary role in promoting peace in the Middle East."

Bulgaria's permanent representative at the United Nations met with the Egyptian representative early last month and conveyed to him his government's interest in restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Egyptian diplomatic sources say the recent summit talks between President Mubarak and Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak covered Egypt's relations with the Arab states including Syria and Libya. Cairo emphasized that it has no "aggressive intentions" against Libya, and that Egyptian forces are deployed 80 km from the Egyptian-Libyan borders.

It also pointed out that it has no sensitivities regarding the improvement of Yugoslav-Libyan relations. President Mubarak said during the talks that he wished Egyptian-Syrian relations could be restored, and that he holds President Hafiz al-Asad in special esteem.

Investment Minister Shindi Departs for GDR
 NC141541 Cairo *MENA* in English 1450 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo (MENA) — Investment and International Cooperation Minister Dr Wajih Shindi left here today for Berlin on a 2-day visit to the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for talks with officials there on means of consolidating economic cooperation relations.

Dr Shindi will also discuss the possibility of the GDR's participation in setting up a number of joint investment projects in Egypt, and means of benefitting from the GDR's know-how in the fields where the GDR has achieved a breakthrough.

Protocols of economic cooperation between the two countries will be reviewed in preparation for being endorsed.

Dr Shindi was seen off at the airport by Hans-Jurgen Weitz, the GDR ambassador here.

Government Signs New Oil Prospecting Agreements
 PM141100 Cairo *AL-AHRAM* in Arabic 6 Mar 84 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Hilal Declares: 120 Oil Prospecting Agreements; Increasing Production to 41 Million Tons"]

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Minister of Petroleum engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal declared that Egypt's 1984 oil production will reach 41 million tons, and that \$140 million in grants paid by the prospecting companies in return for signing agreements with them have been allocated to petroleum investment projects.

He said 22 new oil prospecting agreements are to be signed. That brings the number of oil agreements to 120, which is the world's highest rate for such agreements.

Hilal added that the current daily oil production ranges between 780,000 and 800,000 barrels of crude oil, and between 60,000 and 80,000 barrels of natural gas.

The deputy prime minister for production and minister of petroleum said yesterday at the opening of the seminar on oil prospecting, that an agreement for nuclear cooperation will be signed tomorrow with Italy. He said with regard to petroleum agreements, our conditions for the prospecting companies are fair and always flexible because the oil industry is constantly changing, and Egypt now has national capabilities and expertise that enabled the oil industry to become national in all its stages.

Engineer Hilal stressed the need to rationalize the consumption of petroleum products, which is increasing at an annual rate of 15 percent, the highest rate of consumption in the world. He called for the rapid construction of nuclear power stations to save oil products used in power stations.

He said he has called for the processing of aluminum as a product rather than selling it as raw material, and for halting expansion in this industry that requires cheaply produced electricity.

AL-AHRAM Views Syria's Internal Power Strife
 NC150648 Cairo *Domestic Service* in Arabic 0525 GMT 15 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, *AL-AHRAM* says that for the first time in 14 years a major disruption has occurred within the Syrian regime — a regime masterminded by the Al-Ba'th Party to guarantee stability.

The paper adds that this image of stability is now shaken because of human ambitions. The Syrian regime has, perhaps by virtue of its very composition, created centers of power intended to serve the supreme authority. However, any dictatorial system remains constantly vulnerable to abrupt changes. That is what happened in Syria when power frictions, totally unrelated to popular trends, began.

The paper says that since Al-Asad's illness, it has become evident that the jockeying for his succession is tossing Syria like a feather in the wind. Syria's internal situation has become hostage to this type of internal fighting between supporters. This is taking place despite Syria's alliance with the Soviets — an alliance manifested through Soviet experts, advisers, and missiles deployed inside Syria and even in Lebanon.

This power struggle resulted in dividing the cake more or less fairly between the rival supporters — each taking a vice

presidency in the hope of some temporary contentment. Nevertheless, we remain fearful that the rival parties will begin to mobilize their supporters — some of them armed to the teeth — in a bid for power that can erupt 1 day in the form of a coup or civil war.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-AHRAM* prays that God may save fraternal Syria and its citizens from internal strife of the kind that has devastated Lebanon.

Chemical Weapons Charge 'Excuse' To Strike Plant
JN151156 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — Iraq says the Iranian-Zionist claims that the industrial fertilizer complex Akashat, west of Baghdad, produces chemical weapons are an excuse to strike at it.

In a statement to INA today, Minister of Industry and Minerals Subhi Yasin said that recently the Iranian-Zionist propaganda trumpets have been clearly coordinating to launch claims that the Akashat complex produces chemical weapons. This complex extracts phosphates for the production of compound fertilizers.

The Iraqi minister said that Arab and foreign workers from 40 countries had worked in the Akashat complex. He added that several technical cadres of various nationalities are currently working in the complex. They are from Belgium, the United Kingdom, the FRG, Poland, Pakistan, China, and Bangladesh, in addition to technical cadres from Arab countries and Iraq.

The Iraqi minister explained that this coordination of Iranian-Zionist propaganda aims at establishing necessary cover for a strike either by the Iranian regime in cooperation with the Syrian regime at the industrial complex, or by the Zionist entity, as was the case when the Iraqi nuclear reactor established for peaceful purposes was struck in June 1981.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,404 — 14 March
JN141722 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,404 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 14 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The suspect Iranian regime will taste bitter defeat and suffer further losses and disasters whenever it affirms its expansionist ambitions in the land of Iraq and the Arab nation by continuing its flagrant aggression against proud Iraq. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. At 0120 today, 14 March 1984, the enemy attacked our units east of Basra. Our units clashed with the enemy forces and a glorious battle ensued that lasted until 0615 today. The enemy attack was crushed, the enemy forces were destroyed, and the battle was finally decided in favor of our heroic units. The enemy suffered great losses, which amounted to 1,728 dead; a great number of wounded and captured soldiers; and 4 tanks, 6 armored personnel carriers, 4 excavators, and a great quantity of various light and medium weapons, equipment, and hardware destroyed.

In other areas of the same sector, the enemy lost 36 dead; a number of wounded and captured men; and 3 tanks, 9 excavators, and 1 vehicle destroyed.

2. Formations of our Army helicopter gunships today carried out successful raids and effective strikes against enemy units and equipment opposite our forward units in the east of Basra and

east of Tigris sectors. Our helicopters inflicted on the enemy losses in men and equipment. Known enemy losses were 15 personnel assembly points, 2 armored personnel carriers, 6 boats, 1 excavator, and 1 anti-aircraft machine gun. All of our helicopters returned safely and triumphantly to base, thanks be to God.

3. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central sector of the front.

4. Last night and today, the suspect Khomeyniites used heavy artillery to shell Basra and Mandali and their environs. The shelling injured 2 civilians and damaged 12 civilian cars and 1 house in Basra, and damaged a number of civilian establishments in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 March 1984

Saddam Husayn Receives Arab Foreign Ministers
JN141346 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1314 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President Saddam Husayn has asserted that if Iran attempts to attack Iraq once again Iraq will strike at the Iranian forces more forcefully and will inflict on them thousands upon thousands of dead and wounded in addition to the losses they sustained in previous battles.

Receiving the heads of the delegations taking part in the Arab foreign ministers emergency conference here today, the president said that Iraq will bury all the Iranian aggressive attempts.

Addressing the heads of the Arab delegations, the president said: The Iraqi people and Army will not disappoint you in defending the Arab land. They will continue to defend this land which is worthy of their sacrifices.

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that Iraq has prepared itself against any new Iranian attack in a way that will make our confrontation decisive. He said that the Iranians will reap only defeats, which they deserve.

Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, YAR foreign minister and chairman of the conference, conveyed to the president, on behalf of the heads of the Arab delegations, greetings from the Arab heads of state and people. Al-Asbahi said: Your brothers and Arab people from the Arab Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean salute you at this critical time during which you have called on us to meet and which requires further Arab unity of ranks and solidarity. It is also a lesson for us all to meet and cooperate because disunity weakens us and weakness leads to wasting our resources and efforts.

President Saddam Husayn Cables Soviet Leaders
JN151001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has expressed the hope that Iraqi-USSR relations will prosper and develop in all fields in the interests of the two friendly countries.

This came in a cable of congratulations President Saddam Husayn sent to Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU Central Committee general secretary; and to Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, on the 25th anniversary of the first Iraqi-USSR agreement on technical and economic cooperation.

In his cable of congratulations President Saddam Husayn said: On the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of the first economic and technical cooperation agreement between Iraq and the USSR, it gives us pleasure to extend to you in our name, and on behalf of our comrades in the Command and the Iraqi people, warm greetings and heartfelt wishes that these relations will develop and prosper in all fields in the interest of our two friendly countries.

Ramadan, USSR's Ryabov Discuss Economic Cooperation
JN141308 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, met here today with Yakov Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and the accompanying delegation.

Ramadan said during this meeting that the Soviet delegation's visit at this particular time indicates the depth of the existing relations between the two countries and the desire of both countries' leaderships to expand these relations.

Yakov Ryabov affirmed the USSR's desire to expand and strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with Iraq and its readiness to increase its contribution toward implementing development and strategic projects in the country.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed the existing relations between the two friendly countries and the major and important projects in Iraq which will soon be carried out by Soviet quarters. They also reviewed similar projects for the future. Furthermore, the two sides discussed the means of expanding economic, trade, and technical relations between Iraq and the USSR.

Ramadan and Ryabov affirmed that the great results of the meetings of the 14th session of the Iraqi-Soviet permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation are a major advancement in existing relations between Iraq and the USSR.

Irrigation Minister, Ryabov Confer

JN141846 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, Iraqi minister of irrigation, met here today with Yakov Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and his delegation which is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they discussed the means of developing cooperation between Iraq and the USSR in the field of irrigation.

Military Plane Loads Arms Shipment in Chile

PY141444 Paris AFP in Spanish 1355 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 14 Mar (AFP) — Reliable sources reported today that an Iraqi military plane landed in Santiago to take on board a shipment of arms made in Chile. The plane is a Jumbo 747 which arrived Tuesday afternoon and is scheduled to depart from Merino Benitez International Airport today.

The arms to be loaded includes a shipment of cluster bombs manufactured by the local firm CARDOEN. According to sources of this firm, these cluster bombs can be used by conventional bombers or jet fighter planes. A few seconds after being launched, the Chilean cluster bombs open up to release 240 explosive devices capable of covering an area of 50,000 square meters.

CARDOEN spokesmen did not specify the quantity of bombs or the amount of money involved in the operation but indicated that the company was awarded the contract in a recent tender since it underbid U.S. and European suppliers.

Labor Ministers End Meeting, Issue Resolutions

JN142027 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1804 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) — The 125th session of the Arab labor ministers conference ended here today after 11 days of discussions. The conference issued a number of resolutions condemning the Iranian regime's expansionist policy and hostile acts of sabotage and plotting against the states in the region, and its failure to respond to appeals to end the war with Iraq and realize peace and security in the region. The conference highly valued the Iraqi people's heroism and their steadfastness in defending their territory. The conference valued Iraq's positive response to the efforts to solve the dispute with Iran by peaceful means.

The conference affirmed that the aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the Arab nation. It called on the Arab nation to place its material, moral, and human resources at Iraq's disposal in support of Iraq's just battle against the Iranian regime.

The conference strongly condemned the Zionist policy of occupation and settlement in the occupied territories, and the enemy's continuous violations of the trade union rights and freedoms in occupied Palestine. It called on the ILO to extend immediate assistance to Arab workers in Palestine and occupied Arab territories. The conference condemned the resolution issued by the nonconstitutional international labor office in which the Zionist entity is called to take part in scientific Asian conferences. In this regard, the conference praised the Asian group's unified stand in Geneva — a stand that rejects any participation by the Zionist entity in any ILO activities.

The conference passed a resolution stipulating that the Arab states will take part in the Nonaligned Movement's labor ministers conference which will be held in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, and the meetings of the African labor committee that belongs to the OAU.

The conference called on the Arab labor office to open its Beirut office, lay special emphasis on increasing the funds allocated for the Arab region, and raise the necessary funds to finance the employment project and the workers administration project.

The conference adopted a special resolution concerning the conditions of the Arab workers in West Europe. The resolution affirmed that these workers' rights and interest are within the basic pan-Arab interests.

The conference entrusted the director general of the Arab Labor Organization and its board of directors to take the necessary steps to coordinate Arab action in order to defend the rights and interests of the emigrating Arab workers and to prepare a comprehensive study on their conditions.

The conference hailed the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and its support for the struggle waged by the Eritrean workers and people.

Envoy Protests Japanese Treatment of Iranians

OW141307 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO — Iraq's ambassador to Japan, Mohammad Amin al-Jaff, has expressed concern that Japan has accepted two Iranian soldiers for treatment of wounds which Iran claims were caused by Iraqi chemical weapons, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Iraq has told Japan that Iran has mounted anti-Iraq campaigns by sending injured soldiers abroad, the official said.

The Iraqi envoy insisted that Iraq did not use chemical weapons, the official said. The two soldiers arrived in Tokyo Tuesday and went to Tokyo Women's Medical College, a private hospital, to receive treatment.

Baghdad TV Reports on Iranian Factory Strike

GF141257 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 1000 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] During a successful strike, the workers of Anzali china factory managed to have a number of Khomeyni's lackies expelled from their work place. According to our report, early last February, the combatant Anzali china factory employees — the factory is located on Anzali highway — stopped work and went on strike against the agents of Khomeyni in their factory and their counterrevolutionary [as heard] activities.

The complaints of the china factory employees were especially aimed at the traitorous activities of the anti-Islam society of the factory, which had managed to expel a number of the struggling employees through espionage and plots. As a result of the successful strikes, the managing director of the factory was forced to agree to the demands of the employees and expel a number of Khomeyni's mercenaries.

King Husayn Briefed on Emergency Exercise

JN142043 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — In a meeting held today at the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command Headquarters, His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, accompanied by Crown Prince Hasan, was briefed on the stages of an exercise in which all the government ministries and departments in the Kingdom will participate, together with the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The exercise is aimed at becoming acquainted with the means, plans, and actions that these ministries must follow in case of any foreign aggression. It is also aimed at becoming acquainted with the role of these ministries and departments and their interaction with the Armed Forces to achieve the best results through the best means. Another objective of the exercise is to achieve greater strength, ability, and interaction in order to entrench the principles of national affiliation and pride, out of the belief in the inevitability of the victory of right over wrong.

Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, at the beginning of the meeting, explained the objectives of this exercise that will enable the ministries and departments to carry out their pan-Arab role and duty in circumstances that may be imposed on us — circumstances that require from all of us readiness, alertness, and cohesive efforts to defend this dear homeland. The exercise will enable every individual in this country to carry out his duty through the employees of these ministries and departments who constitute an important asset to the Armed Forces. Some senior military commanders also explained the reasons and the primary objectives of this exercise.

After his majesty listened to the briefing on the stages of the exercise, he expressed his satisfaction with the measures to implement the exercise. He praised the efforts of the personnel involved. His majesty issued his wise instructions calling on everyone to pay proper attention to all the stages of the exercise in the ministries, departments, and the Armed Forces, so that the exercise will achieve the objectives set for it, and everyone will take part in carrying out their sacred duty.

The briefing was also attended by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, the president of the Senate, the Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the ministers, the Army chief of staff, senior Army officers, and heads of government departments and establishments.

Al-Masri on Jordanian-Palestinian Talks

PM141524 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Mar 84
p 16

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Lima Nabil in Amman; date not given]

[Text] The Jordanian media have been silent about the results of the Jordan-PLO summit meetings. To break the silence, AL-

MAJALLAH has interviewed Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Al-Masri said: "The summit talks already held between King Husayn and Mr 'Arafat were not negotiations in the political sense of the word. They were an initial dialogue to confirm good will on both sides and to confirm that both sides are indeed interested in dialogue for political coordination."

The Jordanian minister also told AL-MAJALLAH: "Both King Husayn and 'Arafat agreed during their meeting that the United States cannot at present activate the political situation in the Middle East because President Reagan's administration is preoccupied with the presidential election campaign."

Al-Masri, who is considered to be one of Jordan's most prominent diplomats, stressed that 'Arafat will visit Jordan twice in the next phase. The first visit, he said, will be a private one and will take place shortly, and the second visit will take place within 1 month and will mark one of the decisive rounds in the negotiations between the two sides.

Asked about the possibility of Jordanian-PLO joint steps toward West Europe and the Soviet Union, Tahir al-Masri said: "Our brothers in the PLO asked for that but we told them that, important as it is, this matter is premature and must come after, not before, a political agreement is reached between the two sides."

Al-Masri denied reports about problems between Jordan and the PLO in connection with administration and political issues related to some Palestinians and pertaining to passports and entry permits to Jordan. He said that Jordan and the PLO are well on their way toward agreement on measures which will be taken after careful study and which will solve all the problems of the status of some of the wanted people or those whose cases are still pending.

He added: "Jordan does not hesitate to do its national duty to its Palestinian brothers."

Al-Masri emphasized that Cairo and Amman are in full agreement regarding future steps and that the meeting held between King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak confirmed the clear similarity of their views. He denied that the PLO is trying to walk two ropes, namely the Cairo rope and the Amman rope. He added that President Mubarak told King Husayn during their recent meeting in Washington that he supports the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and sees it as a positive effort to activate the Palestinian question.

Tahir al-Masri also denied that Jordan has set a deadline or a timetable for the Palestinian-Jordanian negotiations. He said: "We are not in a hurry."

The Jordanian minister pointed out that King Husayn will be busy holding important talks with the PRC President and Queen Elizabeth of Britain in Amman this month.

Understanding With Palestinians Keeps Cause Alive

JN142123 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Today's Talk]

[Text] Israel remains insistent on practicing its illegitimate so-called rights through the logic of force. It still insists on keeping the Palestinian people from practicing their legitimate and inalienable rights that are recognized by most countries of the world.

The Israeli Government feels comfortable in the territories it occupied in 1967 because there can be no better situation for it. There is an increasing possibility of Israel containing and integrating these territories through settlement before an Arab position, which possesses the abilities to exert pressure toward reaching a settlement is crystallized, and before the exchange of land for peace becomes possible.

Israel, eventually aims at obtaining the conditions of an Israeli fait accompli.

The U.S. presidential elections this year affords Israel more time to perpetuate its occupation due to the preoccupation of the U.S. Administration with the presidential elections.

This is why the Jordanian-Palestinian mutual understanding gains maximum importance. This understanding is the only hope to keep the cause alive because the Jordanians and Palestinians are two aspects of the one cause. It is certain that any joint Jordanian-Palestinian activity will not stem from a vacuum as long as the two sides are insistent on liberating the land and saving the kinfolk no matter how long it takes.

Israel's declared position has become known to the international community. The only hope to modify of change this position lies in the Jordanian-Palestinian moves on both the regional and international levels, and the extent of the strength and resilience of this move as well as the Arab support that engulfs it from every side.

The U.S. presidential election year must not prevent us from moving on every front to prepare the foundations during the next few months in anticipation of placing the international community before Arab demands concerning a just solution to the Palestinian question.

Israel, which is worried about a unified Jordanian-Palestinian position, is also fearful of the expected Arab support for this position. Israel will not spare any effort in placing obstacles before any move that has the objective of a Jordanian-Palestinian understanding, and of an understanding with the other Arabs.

We hope that the moves on Arab and international levels will be made firmly, clearly, and strongly so that they will bear fruit when the question of finding a just solution and implementing comprehensive peace in the region is raised.

Israeli Settlements Reply to Reagan Remarks

JN142035 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] Occupied Arab territories — Israeli occupation authorities have decided to build 16 new settlements this year in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Observers described this Israeli step as a strong reply to the plea by U.S. President Ronald Reagan yesterday asking Israel to cease settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories.

Israeli radio quoted Israel's science and development minister, who is also head of the government settlement committee, as saying that the Israeli Government has decided to build these settlements in cooperation with a construction company that specialist in building settlements, and that they will be built during this year.

President Reagan had called on Israel yesterday to stop the settlement activities that obstruct the peaceful efforts to settle the Palestinian question.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' on New Syrian Policy in Region

JN150958 Amman Akhbar AL-USBU' in Arabic 15 Mar 84
pp 1, 28

[Excerpts] *AKHBAR AL-USBU'* has received an exclusive report from Syria. The report says that Hikmat al-Shihabi, 'Ali Duma, and 'Ali Haydar — high-ranking military men — have tendered their resignations in the wake of the recent changes in the Syrian Government.

It has been rumored that General Mustafa Talas, who remains defense minister, declined this post. [sentence as published.]

Reports from Damascus say that last week there was a general mobilization of the Syrian forces and the defense companies, and that the commands of the Syrian forces, the special defense companies, and the special forces underwent unusual movements. The reports also say that the defense companies are in complete control of the Syrian capital. These forces [defense companies] are under the command of Rifa't al-Asad who is known to have cordial relations with Moscow, the Palestinians, and Saudi Arabia, and is a close friend of Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi crown prince and commander of the National Guard.

Palestinian circles in Damascus believe that there will be a big change in Syria's policy toward some Arab countries, the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat, Iran, Libya, and Iraq. Rifa't al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat are personal friends and they exchanged letters after the rupture of relations between the PLO and Syria, and during the siege of Tripoli.

It is certain that what took place in Syria recently was approved by President al-Asad who, because of his illness and the heart

attack he suffered several weeks ago, entrusted his brother [Rifa't al-Asad] with great responsibilities. Rifa't Al-Asad is a member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, a member of the National Security Council, commander of the defense companies, and the executive commander of hundreds of thousands of revolutionary branches in Syria. He is also chairman of the Higher Academic Studies Graduates Union, and has a special position among businessmen and traders.

According to reports from Damascus, the new Syrian Government's policy toward Arab and internal issues is expected to become apparent within the next 2 days. There is great optimism

that a change will take place in the new Syrian policy in favor of Arab solidarity and unity, and that the Syrian policy will be more determined to confront the Israeli ambitions.

What gives weight to these reports is the Soviet warning, disseminated by diplomatic circles, and conveyed by the special envoy who visited Damascus this week, a warning not to adopt any move that will escalate tension in the region, because Moscow does not seek military involvement or participation in any confrontation in the region.

Fifth Conference Session Interrupted by Argument**Franjiyah, Others Walk Out**

*NC151146 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon
in Arabic 1138 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] According to reports we received a short while ago, an argument broke out during today's session between [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah on the one side and [former] President Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil on the other. Franjiyah withdrew from the session. He was followed by [former] Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam and Rashid Karami, as well as by Syrian First Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri.

A closed meeting is currently being held in Sulayman Franjiyah's wing in the Beau Rivage Hotel that includes the personalities that joined him.

Al-Jumayyil Joins Franjiyah at Hotel

*NC151203 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon
in Arabic 1151 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] Further to the report with which we started this newscast regarding the walk out of [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah following an argument between him and [former] President Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil, we add that President Amin al-Jumayyil has joined Franjiyah at his special wing at the Beau Rivage Hotel.

P. al-Jumayyil Paper Spurs Walkout

*NC151221 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1150 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] We have received the following in our latest contact with the Voice of the Mountain correspondent in Lausanne:

Pierre al-Jumayyil has read out the statement of the so-called Christian officials, which was issued after their meeting at Phalange headquarters on Tuesday — the meeting that was chaired by Fadi Afram. This statement rejected Lebanon's Arab identity and called for partitionist steps.

When Pierre al-Jumayyil read out this provocative statement a short while ago at the fifth session of the Lausanne conference — the session that was held at 1150 this morning — he was confronted by [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah who said: You are Israelis and this statement does not represent the Christians.

The Phalangist leader replied: You must appreciate the situation of the Christians who have established relations with Israel.

Franjiyah answered this by saying: They are not Christians, they are Israelis. You are a traitor and an agent. He then left the session which subsequently broke up. Mediation efforts started afterward to patch up the situation.

Franjiyah Returns to Session

*NC151219 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon
in Arabic 1204 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] I have just been informed that the national dialogue session was resumed at the Beau Rivage Hotel a few minutes ago after the return of [former] President Franjiyah and all those who joined him in his special wing. He returned to the hall amid warm applause and welcome by all interlocutors and delegations.

We recall here that Franjiyah walked out of the session after an argument between him and [former] President Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil. Following the argument, Franjiyah opted to withdraw from the session. He was followed by President Amin al-Jumayyil; Saudi mediator Minister Ibrahim al-Mas'ud; Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; [former] Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam and Rashid Karami; and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri. They held a closed meeting with Franjiyah.

Conference to Resume 17 March

*NC151325 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1230 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the martyrdom of Progressive Socialist Party leader Kamal Junblatt, and the beginning of the national progressive action in Lebanon, the Lausanne conference will suspend its meetings this afternoon and Friday, and resume its meetings on Saturday.

More Reportage on Contacts Outside Conference**Al-Jumayyil, Franjiyah, Khaddam Meet**

*NC151249 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon
in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Excerpts] The fifth session of the Dialogue Conference began at 1200 today amidst a more optimistic and less heated atmosphere than that present at past sessions. What helped in thawing the ice was the closed meeting among President Amin al-Jumayyil, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah, and Syrian First Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

It has been reported that this meeting resolved many arguments, and adopted the constitutional document to which the 28 reform provisions contained in President al-Jumayyil's speech were added. The meeting dropped the demand for the establishment of a Senate in response to the proposal by Sulayman Franjiyah.

At yesterday's session, Franjiyah defended the powers of the president, and rejected every demand limiting these powers. He said: The Lebanese Constitution defined the powers of the president of the Republic, but usage has limited them. The minister concerned adds his signature to that of the president. The only prerogative exercised now by the president is the formation of the government and its dismissal. He has no power at all over anything else.

Franjiyah rejected the federal formulas proposed. He said: Lebanon lived in prosperity until the devil entered it. The devil

is Israel. If we accept the federation now, then we will have the devils with us. He added: We still remember that the United States was the great devil in 1975 and 1976. The United States wants to evacuate us.

Al-Jumayyil Contacts; Draft Declaration

*NC142000 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1920 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Telephone dispatch by Voice of Lebanon correspondent from Lausanne — recorded]

[Excerpts] At 1800, President Amin al-Jumayyil commenced his contacts with the heads of the delegations, with Syrian Vice President Abd al-Halim Khaddam attending, in a bid to put the final touches to the draft declaration of principles, which will be adopted by the dialogue body in Lausanne.

The president began his meetings with [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah, and then received [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The president will continue his contacts until 2030 at which time he will host a dinner banquet in honor of the Syrian vice president. The heads of the delegations will attend the banquet.

President al-Jumayyil also received [former] Prime Minister Saib Salam and [former Chamber Speaker] Adil 'Usayran. He will also meet with Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri.

Earlier, President al-Jumayyil met with Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri. Sources at the conference have reported that the draft that President al-Jumayyil is now working on in coordination with the Syrian vice president, is derived from the constitutional document laid down during Sulayman Franjiyah's period in office in 1976.

The most significant articles of the draft focus on administrative decentralization and the decentralization of development plans. Discussions are underway to amend the decentralization plan to cover the financial sector. The plan also touches on the three main posts [words indistinct] in addition to the formation of a national unity government.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met during lunch with Nabih Birri, Saib Salam, and Walid Junblatt. [Former] President Camille Sham'un met during lunch with Walid Junblatt, who described Sha'mun as a longstanding opponent. He added that not all the opponents are like Sham'un.

Various Intensive Contacts Held

*NC142234 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] Intensive contacts and consultations were conducted among the National Dialogue Conference's participants. President Amin al-Jumayyil met with [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah, with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attending. Khaddam later intensified his contacts with the conferees. He met for 2 hours with Amal Movement leader lawyer

Nabih Birri. Sources said the meeting was held in an atmosphere in which objectivity and frankness prevailed. Also, the discussions during the meeting centered on topics being tackled by the Dialogue Body. The meeting is part of Khaddam's move to pacify the political atmosphere and bring the views of the national dialogue conferees closer. Lawyer Birri made no statements at the end of the meeting.

Khaddam then met with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt. Former Ministers Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadan attended the meeting.

Franjiyah, Phalangists Meet

*NC150624 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT
15 Mar 84*

[Telephone dispatch by the Voice of Lebanon mission in Lausanne — live]

[Excerpts] The dialogue session will resume today at 1100. The primary points of the proposals already made are likely to be submitted in one working paper during this session.

Last night [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah met at his hotel with a Phalangist delegation including George Sa'adah, Marun Hilu, Joseph Abu Khalil, and Joseph al-Hashim. Deputy 'Abdallah ar-Rasi, Ilyas Saba, and Hamid Khuri attended. The conferees expressed their satisfaction upon being informed of the resumption of the Security Arrangements Committee's activities in Beirut. The conferees' sources said the committee which was formed here in Lausanne proposed the formation of a force of 2,000 volunteers after undergoing a crash training course to be deployed along the contact lines together with retired military personnel, who will act as observers.

P. al-Jumayyil, Khaddam Meet

*NC150651 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT
15 Mar 84*

[Text] Pierre al-Jumayyil made a statement to the Voice of Lebanon regarding his impressions following his meeting with [former] President Sham'un and [Syrian Vice President] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He emphasized that the meeting was very useful and necessary.

Pierre al-Jumayyil said self-dependence will save Lebanon and its people from their ordeal. He said: We have depended on the Europeans, Americans, Arabs, and everyone else, but did not reach the cherished results.

PSP on Al-Jumayyil-Junblatt Meeting

*NC151120 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1025 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] We have just received the following from our correspondent in Lausanne:

The fourth working session of the Lausanne conference opened 15 minutes ago. The session will attempt to reach common denominators so as to produce a statement of principles within 1 or 2 days. It was learned that the statement of principles will deal with the current basic issues, particularly those concerning the political reform, the Army, and the measures needed to abolish domination.

Amin al-Jumayyil and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met this morning in a series of separate meetings with the delegations. It was learned that the meeting between Amin al-Jumayyil and Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party lasted approximately 2 hours. It was attended by former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt.

A patriotic source said it was a working meeting devoted to a discussion of the patriotic working paper. In this respect, Walid Junblatt reiterated the basic stands and demonstrated his willingness to let the conference succeed in reaching a formula for preserving the basic pillars of the homeland, its unity, and successful performance of its institutions.

We have also learned that the patriotic forces continue to insist on removing political sectarianism; pinpointing those responsible for the massacres; reconstructing the Army in both its organization and orientation; and canceling the legislations and appointments. The patriotic forces also insist on the need to limit (tahdid) the powers and responsibilities of the Republic's president.

Leaders Attend Banquet 14 Mar

OW150028 Hong Kong AFP in English 2358 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne, March 15 (AFP) — Leaders of the hostile Lebanese factions all attended a banquet here last night, but "nothing was settled", said Druze Moslem chief Walid Junblatt.

Earlier, on the third day of the National Reconciliation Conference here, Mr Junblatt and his allies rejected a proposal by the leaders of the Christian political parties and militias to turn Lebanon into a federation. That might reduce the friction among the country's 16 religious faiths, the Maronite Catholic leaders argued. But the Moslem leaders insisted on a strong central government, and on proportional representation and an end to sharing out political posts along religious lines.

Mr Junblatt told newsmen after the banquet: "We did not talk politics. We avoided the burning subjects. The fact that we came to dinner does not signify anything. We came because it was in honor of the Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Syria plays a very important role in Lebanon and is our main ally."

Shi'ite Moslem leader Nabih Birri also attended the dinner given by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, although Mr Birri had refused to talk privately with the president up to now. Mr Birri refuses any bilateral meeting until the president denounces those responsible for the heavy artillery bombardments in the last few months on the Shi'ite suburbs and Druze-inhabited mountains.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0515 GMT on 15 March reports: It has been learned that the atmosphere during the banquet that the president hosted last night and which was attended by all delegations, was very merry. The exchanges between the president and opposition delegations, including Walid Junblatt, were particularly merry. Junblatt addressed the president as Your Excellency the president, and joked with him all the time. He sent the president a piece of paper in which he said: Yes to Lausanne, and no to Al-Wazzan. Nabih Birri exchanged kisses with the president. The invitees gathered around the president in a merry atmosphere indicating optimism.]

The dinner was held amid exceptional security precautions in the lakeside Hotel Beau Rivage.

In the afternoon, President al-Jumayyil talked with former President Sulayman Franjiyah, a member of the opposition National Salvation Front. The Syrian "observer", Vice President Khaddam, was present, officials said.

Then the president had talks with former Premiers Sa'ib Salam and Rashid Karami, both Sunni Moslems.

Al-Wazzan Phones Khaddam

NC141434 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan contacted Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam [who is now in Lausanne] by telephone this morning. They discussed the results thus far achieved at the Lausanne National Dialogue Conference. Al-Wazzan also congratulated Khaddam on his assumption of his new post. The discussions between the two centered on the cease-fire and extent to which the parties concerned are abiding by it.

In his capacity as acting foreign minister, Prime Minister al-Wazzan received a telephone call from Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. They discussed foreign affairs.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also received at his residence Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, who apprised him of some of the issues related to the Foreign Ministry.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan discussed with the security commands the question of the cease-fire and the consolidation of peace. They also discussed current contacts with the quarters concerned to implement the decision relating to arrangements for convening the Security Committee. That committee will contribute to the monitoring of the cease-fire and disengagement of forces.

More Reportage on Opposition Statements, Policies**ANSA Notes Junblatt Skepticism***AU141606 Rome ANSA in English 1550 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Excerpts] (ANSA) Rome, March 14 — Much of Italian press commentary on the Lausanne Conference focused today on the role Syria is playing in the Lebanese national reconciliation process. *LA REPUBBLICA* carried a brief interview with [Walid] Junblatt in which the Druze leader was portrayed as skeptical of the chances that the Lausanne conference will bring tangible results.

Junblatt stated in part: "I came to Lausanne because I don't want anyone saying Junblatt is against peace. But who doesn't realize that this is a dialogue between deaf-mutes? It will be a lot if we manage to come to terms on a workable ceasefire agreement.

"Let's say that, at most, a small step (towards national reconciliation) may be made. But I want to make it clear: The 1943 'National Pact' that handed power over to the Phalangists does not make sense any more. What is needed is a radical reform".

Asked what his gripe with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil is, Junblatt replied: "I accuse Al-Jumayyil of having massacred the Lebanese people, Christians and Moslems alike". "And he must pay for it. He must be tried and judged, along with his father, Pierre".

Junblatt described his relations with Syria as "excellent", and said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad could hardly ignore "the will of the Lebanese people and the demands of the opposition".

JANA Interviews Junblatt*LD141527 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] Brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese National Salvation Front today strongly condemned Phalangist attempts to foil the establishment of a cease-fire in Lebanon. In a statement to a JANA correspondent in Lausanne, he explained that the Phalangist attempts are not born by chance; they are part of a premeditated strategic policy as the Phalangist-Zionist alliance sees itself rapidly collapsing and retreating. Junblatt said: We want a new Lebanon, but not of the Phalangist type, that isolates Lebanon from its Arabism and vanguard role in defending the honor of the Arab nation. He added that his demands concerning the desired political reform are clear; namely, comprehensive and total political reform ensuring the emergence of a new Lebanon in which equality, justice, and peace prevail.

Brother Walid Junblatt said at the conclusion of his statement:

We are on the path of achieving equality, justice, and peace for Lebanon as a result of the struggle of our people in the mountains, Beirut and south, and as a result of strong Arab support represented by the Jamahiriyyah and Syria.

Franjiyah on Conference, U.S.*NC150923 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0730 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] Swiss radio and television continue to focus on [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah. Swiss media interviewed him in the presence of international journalists regarding the Lausanne conference and on security and reforms.

In his interview with Swiss television, Franjiyah asserted that what particularly concerns him is stability, followed by reforms. He said: The war will conclude its 9th year on 13 April; therefore, we are concerned with ending the war first and reforms next.

Regarding his proposals, Franjiyah said: After the cease-fire, I want the Israeli Army to leave the south. I want MOSAD — and its agents — to leave Beirut because they are behind all the incidents.

Franjiyah reiterated his proposal that relations with the United States be severed if it doesn't exert pressure on Israel to withdraw within a month. He also demanded that the United States sever its relations with Israel if it does not respond to the withdrawal request.

Answering a question about his relations with Junblatt and Birri, Franjiyah said: We agree on the general policy. We have no disagreement because each has special demands regarding his own area.

Franjiyah was asked: What is your comment, Mr President, over remarks that you are moderate. He answered: This is so because I consider Lebanon as one of my sons. Because he is a sick son, I will search for any solution that will cure him.

In another interview with the radio, Franjiyah answered a question on the Syrian role at the Lausanne conference. He said: All Lebanese have good relations with Syria. This is natural. Syria's presence at the conference is in response to the request by the president. Syria is attending the conference along with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a referee.

Regarding his opinion about the conference, Franjiyah said: I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic.

Franjiyah was asked: What is your role at the conference? He answered: I demand an end to the military situation and a firm cease-fire, as well as the abortion of the plan of the disreputable Henry Kissinger to evacuate the Lebanese and settle the Palestinians in their place. This state of affairs is, regrettably, continuing. The evacuation is also continuing.

Regarding the required reforms, Franjiyah said: It is important to restore normal conditions first: the reforms will follow.

In an interview with [the Lebanese paper] *AL-ANWAR*, President Sulayman Franjiyah expressed his fear about the partition plot. He said: I remember when I was president of the Republic and events began to develop in Cyprus. The Cypriot military attache in Beirut came to see me and handed me a paper. I read

that paper. My spontaneous reaction was: Dear God, keep this disaster from us.

President Franjiyah continued: The ministers who were present with me were surprised by my remark. I passed the paper to Prime Minister Taqi ad-Din as-Sulh, who read in a loud voice. What I was afraid of at that time, President Franjiyah added, occurred in Lebanon 5 months later. Incidents began at that time, and we are still experiencing the repercussions of those incidents.

President Franjiyah affirmed that there are three parties warring in Lebanon; two of them are working openly and the third is working underground and its task is sabotage. As long as this party is present on Lebanese territory, work and difficulties will continue.

President Franjiyah wondered if we know whether Israel is a fraternal state or an enemy of Lebanon. We must make this clear to the Lebanese generations. We must also make this clear here in Lausanne, he said. If we agree on this, the past chapter will be closed and tragedies will cease. Then we can make a fresh start.

In reply to a question, President Sulayman Franjiyah said: I have taken note of President Amin al-Jumayyil's position that decided the issue of Israel in the first session of the Lausanne conference. This issue was originally decided in Geneva; however, President al-Jumayyil clearly defined Lebanon's affiliation to the Arab world. The abrogation of the 17 May agreement has also resolved many obstacles which stood in the way of the peace process in Lebanon.

President Franjiyah also explained his proposal at the conference that Lebanon should make a decision on its relations with the United States. He said: The United States has disappointed Lebanon. The United States is the one which feeds Israel and Israeli hostility. Lebanon must ask the United States to use its influence to bring about Israel's withdrawal from the south within a month. Otherwise, we should break off our diplomatic relations with Washington.

Regarding President Franjiyah's working paper to the conference, he said: I personally adopt the constitutional covenant, and each of the other eight members has his own document. I support the amendment of the Constitution with regard to internal matters from which the Lebanese complain, because this Constitution was drafted in 1926 and has been occasionally amended. President Franjiyah added: There are compelling reasons for amending the Constitution today. He gave as an example the elections law. He maintained that this law must be amended, because it has been superseded by time. It was suitable when the Constitution was drafted, but today for everyone to be equal before law and justice, they must be treated fairly. We regard ourselves as brothers from the same father. The brother has the same rights as the second brother. Therefore, there is no harm in amending the Constitution.

Asked whether he is optimistic about the outcome of the Lausanne conference, President Franjiyah said: I am optimistic because we have made a good choice. Conditions are apt to improve. The Lebanese citizen will see this for himself.

Concluding, President Franjiyah said: Everything has a time for a solution. The northern area will be opened to the other areas very soon God willing. The problems of the displaced in the north will find solutions.

Birri's Views, Al-Jumayyil Strategy

PM141433 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Mar 84 pp 1,3

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "Lebanese Opposition Wants Radical Reforms"]

[Excerpts] Lausanne — If you were to believe the proceedings of the opening session of the Lausanne conference on the evening of Monday, 12 March, you would be tempted to assert, as does Rashid Karami, one of the leaders of the Sunni opposition, that there is a 99-percent chance of the meeting producing an agreement to once and for all end the civil war in Lebanon. President Amin al-Jumayyil delivered a speech whose unitary character, serenity, and open-mindedness are likely to raise him above the partisan quarrels that have been steeping his country in blood for 9 years.

Initially divided on the tactics to be followed, the opposition representatives have been upholding virtually identical positions since Monday, each in his own way. On the other hand, the splits in the so-called "government" camp seem to stand out.

President al-Jumayyil has in particular moved away from those who were regarded as his allies. He is more afraid of the "demagogic excesses" of Lebanese Front (Maronite) Chairman Camille Sham'un, according to his entourage, than of the demands of the opposition, whose behavior is regarded as "responsible." It is also reported that the attitude of Phalange Party leader Pierre al-jumayyil, his own father, irritates him more than it reassures him. President al-Jumayyil is apparently particularly inclined to compromise since Sa'ib Salam (Sunni) and 'Adil 'Usayran (Shi'ite), the representatives of the conservative Muslims in his own camp, Monday evening defended ideas close to those of the opposition. They both advocated a new democratic and egalitarian Lebanon freed from the "hegemonist ambitions" of some other confessional parties, thus implicitly referring to the Phalangists and their militia.

It is only today, Tuesday, that discussions will begin on the substance of the conflict with the presentation of the memorandum jointly drawn up by the two main opposition parties — Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party and Nabih Birri's Shi'ite movement. If the demands listed in this document were to be adopted, they would bring about revolutionary changes in areas concerning the state.

Abolition of Confessionalism

"We are determined to secure the abolition of the confessional system here and now," Nabih Birri told us emphatically, shortly after the opening session. President al-Jumayyil's appeasing speech clearly did not reduce the Shi'ite leader's combativeness. There is a good reason for that: Amal's elected chairman, representing the largest and most underprivileged community in Lebanon, cannot afford to go home "empty-handed," without "resigning" himself "to political suicide."

Mr Birri's aim is to persuade the Maronite leaders that the deconfessionalization of the political system would, in the final analysis, serve the cause of the Christian communities and that of all other minorities. Only a democratic Lebanon governed by a Parliament and president elected by universal suffrage, administered by men chosen for their abilities and not on the basis of their religion, would restore national unity and guarantee the rights and security of all citizens without distinction, he maintained.

On the other hand, the maintenance of the confessional system, with the discriminations and privileges it contains, would only fuel the distrust, resentment, and rancor between the various communities, he added. "if the Maronite leaders persist in their desire to preserve this anachronistic regime," he threatened, "they will have to pay a very high price." Indeed, he explained, each community will then have to be represented according to its size. The largest community, the Shi'ites, would then have the natural right to demand the "lion's share": the presidency of the Republic, the highest number of deputies, and most of the key posts in the administration and Armed Forces. "Is that what the extremist leaders of the Maronite community want?" he exclaimed, before firmly but calmly adding: "I will not leave Lausanne before obtaining satisfaction one way or another."

Syria's Position

Most people here are of the opinion that Birri will not give in on the essential issues, even if he were to be pressured by Syria. It is not yet known what the latter's attitude will be since Mr Khaddam, the new vice president of the Republic, only arrived in Lausanne late in the evening after the conclusion of the opening session. But Mr Birri gave us several factors to consider when he recalled some of the things he and President al-Asad had said to each other last week.

According to him, the Syrian president gave him this assurance: "The dialogue which I have established with President al-Jumayyil is not, and never will be, directed against the Lebanese national forces' (the opposition) interests. Moreover, I was very forthright and frank with Al-Jumayyil. These were my very words to him: In practice, you did not annul the Israeli-Lebanese agreement of 17 May; you simply had the merit to bow to the evidence by burying a stillborn treaty which fanned the flames of the civil war..." In other words, Mr al-Asad suggested that he did not feel particularly grateful to the Lebanese head of state for rallying to the "Syrian option." However, according to his entourage, President al-Jumayyil did not gain the same impression from his talks with the Syrian president. Mr Birri continued his account: "President al-Asad asked me what our primary objective was. I answered him clearly: to deconfessionalize Lebanon, and make it a united, modern, and democratic state to ensure, among other things, that it is not a factor of Balkanization and thus destabilization for all the countries in the region, including Syria." According to the Shi'ite leader, President al-Asad was satisfied with that reply.

Lebanese Front Isolated

Despite all his good will, it remains to be seen whether President al-Jumayyil will be willing or able to follow the opposition in this sphere. He must necessarily take account of the equally emphatic will of the Phalange Party of which he was one of the leaders

to preserve intact the institutions set up 40 years ago. It was clear as early as Monday evening that Pierre al-Jumayyil, his father, and National Liberal Party leader Camille Sham'un, his father's ally, are certainly in no hurry to tackle the question of reforms.

The former insisted that the question of the liberation of the national territory (from the Syrian and Israeli forces) be discussed first; the latter continues to maintain that the annulment of the 17 May Israeli-Lebanese agreement was a "serious mistake" if not a "betrayal," as his son Dany stated recently on his return from a "working visit" to Israel.

The Lebanese Front leaders are isolated in this respect. All of the other conference participants, be they Christian or Muslim, conservative or progressive, congratulated or paid tribute to President al-Jumayyil for having had the "lucidity" and "courage" to annul the agreement with the Jewish State.

Pierre al-Jumayyil's and Camille Sham'un's rearguard action seems doomed to failure. However, this does not mean that Birri's and Junblatt's bold plan is assured of success.

Further Reportage on Cease-Fire Implementation

Security Committee 14 Mar Meeting

NC141630 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee meeting ended at 1740. The conferees discussed issues pertaining to the cease-fire. The French contingent headquarters, which housed today's meeting, has been selected by the conferees as the site for the committee's future meetings. The conferees agreed to meet again at 1000 tomorrow.

Attending today's meeting were Staff Colonel Jean Nasif on behalf of the Lebanese Army; Dr Jean Ghanim on behalf of the Lebanese Front; Wabbah Abu Fa'ur on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party; and Ayyub Humayyid on behalf of the Amal Movement.

'Guarded' Atmosphere 15 Mar

NC151339 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] In Beirut, the quadripartite Security Arrangements Committee met at 1000 in At-Tayyounah to discuss the measures aimed to stabilize the cease-fire, and implement the decisions taken by the disengagement committee formed at the Lausanne Conference.

This took place in a guarded atmosphere brought on by the activities of Phalangist snipers at the national positions on the contact lines in the Commercial Markets and Sodeco.

Phalangists Stress Need To Stabilize Cease-Fire
NC141405 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT
 14 Mar 84

[Excerpt] At its meeting this morning under Deputy Phalange Party leader Dr Elie Karami, the Phalange Political Bureau emphasized the need to stabilize the cease-fire, and instructions were given to Phalange Security Council officials in this regard. The bureau discussed the proposals and plans that have been submitted to the Lausanne Conference and also some educational affairs.

Gunmen Burn Christian Institutions, Homes
NC151003 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
 0945 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports received today from the western Ash-Shahhar area [in the Ash-Shuf Mountains], the Junblattists have set fires to the churches of 'Ayn Ksur and several Christian-owned houses after stealing their contents.

In West Beirut, roughly 70 gunmen stormed the Lebanese Anglican School for the Blind near St Joseph's School opposite the British Embassy. They collected the religious books and burned them. They also took the blind students' gold icons and chains, and warned them that they will not tolerate those Christian books. They asked them to replace them with Islamic religious books.

Kuwaiti AL-WATAN on Christian 'Civil War'
GF131635 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 12 Mar 84 p 1

[Excerpt] A secret civil war is currently taking place in Beirut between the Phalange Party and its "Lebanese Front" allies. The war has involved assassinations on both sides. *AL-WATAN* has learned that there are the militias have devised mass escape operations from their camps. Informed sources have told *AL-WATAN* that the conflicts are escalating and the differences among the Phalangist leaders are becoming sharper. Confusion is dominating all of the party's sectors and institutions — not to mention the atmosphere of pessimism and apprehension that dominates all citizens who have been suffering from the terrorism of the rightist militias throughout the years of war.

Dani Sham'un Reveals Shi'ite-Israeli Contacts
NC142032 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT
 14 Mar 84

[Text] Reacting to Nabih Birri's criticism over his visit to Israel, Dani Sham'un [son of former President Camille Sham'un] made an exclusive statement to the Voice of Lebanon. He said: We are prepared to bring the minutes of the meetings that Birri's men had with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Dani Sham'un added that Birri should understand that I am not [word indistinct]. I hope they can give as much service for Lebanon as I am performing.

Sidon Port Reopens 15 March; Israelis Warn Workers
NC151111 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
 1045 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Port of Sidon, which was closed for 11 days, reopened today. Israeli officers told the port workers that they will be responsible for any explosions there. The Israeli positions in the port's vicinity were recently the target of several attacks that wounded 11 soldiers.

Israeli Position, Jeep Attacked in Sidon
NC142126 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT
 14 Mar 84

[Text] Israeli occupation forces continue to cordon off the Ar-Rahibat Triangle in Sidon's Martyrs Square. They cut all roads leading to the area following an attack by National Resistance men against an Israeli position in the Ar-Rahibat Triangle. The Israeli position is also manned by border militias. A clash raged for 30 minutes between resistance men and position personnel in which machine guns and rockets were used. No information is yet available on Israeli casualties because of the military cordon imposed on the area by Israeli forces.

The National Resistance men detonated an explosive charge this afternoon when an Israeli patrol was passing through Hayy Nafisha Quarter. Eyewitnesses said an Israeli jeep was put out of commission and that ambulances were seen rushing to the scene. Israeli forces opened indiscriminate fire after cordoning off the area.

Bomb Explosion in Sidon; Israeli Vehicle Hit
NC141250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 14 Mar 84

[Text] At 1200 today a bomb exploded by remote control on the intersection of As-Sabbagh-Dalla'ah Streets in Sidon. The bomb, the explosion of which was heard in most of the city's areas, exploded as an Israeli patrol was passing. Israeli occupation motorized foot patrols hurried to the scene of the incident after the explosion, firing heavy bursts of machine gun fire. Eyewitnesses said an Israeli military Landrover was hit, but it isn't known if there were any casualties because of the cordon placed around the area by the Israeli occupation forces.

Qulaylat Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Invitation
NC150620 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic
 0530 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement — al-Murabitun], has received a personal official invitation from Brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, to visit the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah. Brother Qulaylat received the invitation from a Libyan official whom he received in Al-Murabitun's Central Headquarters. Brother Qulaylat is expected to make the visit soon.

Ash-Shar' Receives British Parliamentarians

JN150752 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' today received the British House of Commons delegation headed by Robert Adley, that is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, the talks dealt with the current political situation in the region. The minister asserted Syria's concern about Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty, and about maintaining its Arab affiliation. He announced Syria's permanent readiness to give every assistance to make the Lebanese national dialogue process a success.

Ash-Shar' noted the dangers of the U.S. expansionist policy in the region — a policy based on unlimited support for the Israeli expansionist policy in a way that guarantees the continuation of Israel's presence in Lebanon. The foreign minister said that if the EEC countries want to assume a constructive role in achieving a just solution to the Middle East crisis, they must adopt important and independent stands in order to achieve an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

PNC Speaker Receives Delegation

JN141729 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has praised Syria's role under President struggler Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the expansionist imperialist and Zionist plans. During his reception of the British House of Commons delegation led by Robert Adley, Al-Fahum stressed the importance of the strategic relations between Syria and the PLO, and said: The PLO will not be able to step up its struggle unless it relies on close relations with Syria. Al-Fahum also praised Syria's constructive role in Lebanon that stems from President Hafiz al-Asad's concern about Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and sovereignty.

UN Official Arrives With Message for Al-Asad

JN141649 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General (?Urquhart) arrived in Damascus today with a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from the UN secretary general.

Damascus Reports Reagan Remarks on Syria

JN141506 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Text] Washington — U.S. President Ronald Reagan declared that friendship between the United States and Israel is now stronger than at any other time, and that he intended to keep this level of close relations. This came in statements made by Reagan yesterday before a group of U.S. Jews in the context of his re-election campaign during which he is seeking to appease the Zionist lobby. Reagan also said that U.S. economic aid and

military grants to Israel will allow it to preserve qualitative military superiority.

Reagan strongly attacked Syria for obstructing U.S. plans in the Middle East and for standing in the face of U.S. friends whom he urged to negotiate with Israel, especially King Husayn. Reagan claimed that Syria had put pressure on Lebanon to abrogate the 17 May agreement. He also admitted that the United States had three aims in the Middle East: Countering the Soviet threat, strengthening peace between Israel and the Arabs, and preserving the transfer of petroleum from the Gulf to the West.

On increasing U.S. aid to Jordan, Reagan said that Jordan was very important to the peace process in the Middle East. He claimed that Jordan was, like Israel, facing confrontation with Syria. Reagan expressed his opinion that it was in Israel's strategic interest to guarantee Jordan's legitimate defense rights in order to face the increasing power of Syria, as he put it.

Commentary Views Speech

JN141539 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. policy in the Middle East suffers from two kinds of misfortune. First, the U.S. rulers who deal with the Middle East issue are ignorant of history, geography, and the events. Second, the United States is blindly biased toward Israel to the extent that it is sacrificing U.S. national interests in return for temporary electoral interests; a fact that makes U.S. policy a satellite for Israel's policy in the Middle East, although Israel is unable to arm itself, occupy others' territories, or launch aggression without U.S. military, economic, and political support.

This misfortune appears clearly in President Ronald Reagan's reign and is a semi-disaster for U.S. policy in the region. Its effects will lead to the retreat of the U.S. presence, influence, role, and interests in the region; a retreat that will historically be more important than the retreat of British and French colonialism after the failure of the tripartite British, French, and Israeli aggression on Egypt in 1956.

Some prominent U.S. politicians understand why the Reagan administration was obliged to withdraw the defeated U.S. forces from Lebanon, and U.S. congressmen have accused Ronald Reagan's administration and described what happened in Lebanon as shameful and humiliating to the United States. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz did not find anything to defend the failure of the U.S. Administration's policy in Lebanon other than saying that the Soviet Union and Syria were surprised by the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines to the U.S. warships.

Yesterday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan revealed a new example of the sickness of the U.S. policy in the Middle East, proving his deep ignorance of the region's affairs, U.S. partiality to Israel and hostility to the Arabs, and the U.S. violation of the principles of the UN Charter and its Middle East resolutions. In a speech at a meeting of a U.S. Jewish organization, President Reagan confirmed his administration's determination to extend huge

U.S. military and economic aid to Israel although Israel does not abide by UN resolutions, invaded Lebanon and occupied a third of its territories and refused to withdraw from it, and occupies three Arab countries' lands, including the lands allotted to the Palestinian Arab state in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution in 1948 on which Israel was established. Moreover, Israel made the Palestinian people homeless and adopts a genocidal policy against them. Nobody can imagine a more and stronger partiality than this U.S. partiality to Israel which is a violation of the law, justice, the UN Charter and its resolutions, and the peoples' rights.

President Reagan has presented a clear example of U.S. officials' ignorance of the region's affairs. First, he claimed that Syria endangers Jordan. Second, he claimed that Syria is trying to lead a radical effort to dominate the region through terrorism against U.S. friends. It is well known that Israel, and not Syria, occupied the West Bank and expelled the Jordanian forces from it, and it is the Israeli and U.S. rulers who are thinking of turning Jordan into a substitute homeland for the Palestinians. The Jordanian ambassador in Washington heard something like that from a former U.S. secretary of state in the presence of a number of Arab ambassadors. Those who interfere to prevent Jordan from acquiring arms to defend itself are the Israeli rulers, those who prevent the dispatch of arms to Jordan are the U.S. rulers, and those who try to urge Jordan's rulers to commit suicide, the As-Sadat way, are the U.S. rulers who want the Jordanian rulers to participate in a plot to liquidate and forge the Palestinian people's cause and accept on behalf of the Palestinian people Israel's conditions.

Those who threaten Jordan are the United States and Israel. Jordan will remain a fraternal country; its people and the Syrian people are one people, who have one destiny and joint interests. The current strained relations between Syria and the Jordanian regime is due to the United States, which tries to encourage and pressure them to enter into the Camp David conspiracy and the Reagan plan which is hostile to the interests of Jordan, Syria, and the entire Arab nation, and the Palestinian people in particular.

Intelligent rulers learn from their mistakes and reconsider their steps after every defeat or setback. But President Reagan has proved again that he does not learn from his mistakes and defeats.

Press on Reagan's Remarks

JN150847 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT
15 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Reagan Miscalculates Once Again" *AL-BATH* says: U.S. President Ronald Reagan spoke about terrorism. He viewed the Arab's loyalty to his homeland as terrorism, Syria's commitment to its pan-Arab ideology as terrorism, and the Palestinian and Lebanese confrontation of the Israeli occupation as an act of terrorism on which the United States cannot remain silent in fulfillment of its commitments to all that Israel wants.

Reagan means every word he said to the Zionist conference. Reagan meant every word he had said because he considers the Middle East as being an area where a vacuum exists and that Israel has the right to take it and settle in it.

The U.S. President intentionally used harsh language when speaking about Syria and meant his threats to Syria to be dangerous and imply premeditated aggressive intentions. While the master of the White House expressed cordial sentiments toward Zionism and Israel, he deceived the Arabs by resorting to old and new expressions of dividing the Arabs into moderates and extremists, and by removing suspicion from the agents by calling them moderates, and defending his intentions against Syria under the pretext of protecting the moderates from Syria's extremism.

AL-BATH adds: Although Reagan's talk contained many provocations and threats, he partially admitted the truth when he announced that Syria has emerged as a force which has some influence on the Arab level. Here we must reaffirm to the U.S. President that Syria has been as concerned about peace as it has been about its Arabism. Syria believes that its trend for peace must necessarily be accompanied by the necessary force to defend this real peace. If Reagan's armies and fleets make him feel that he must avenge himself, Syria seeks no revenge from anyone. It is determined to be a force that defends Arab rights, whether in Lebanon or in the other occupied territories. The balances which the United States is seeking to reverse in Israel's interests will not be in the U.S. interest. The results of the conspiracies that the United States is concocting to besiege Syria will only be a tighter Arab popular siege on the United States and its interests. The United States is not as concerned about Lebanon as Syria is about Lebanese blood because this is Arab blood. The United States which views the Arabs' land as an area where a vacuum exists, and gives Israel the right to occupy it, has experienced the falsehood of this claim on a very narrow strip in Lebanon. When Reagan decides to take revenge, Syria will have the necessary means to defend its rights, its Arabism, and the peace for which it is struggling.

Under the headline "What Do Reagan's Threats to Syria Mean?" *TISHRIN* says: After it has been proved to the world at large, to the United States, and to its European allies that Syria's role in Lebanon is a positive role and that it is exerting sincere efforts to save it from occupation and destruction, and after all the Lebanese have now realized that the United States' only concern is to safeguard Israel's interests and implement its designs of expansion and that the Arab option is the only course for dealing with the Lebanese issue, U.S. President Ronald Reagan resumed his campaign of threats against Syria, holding it responsible for obstructing the U.S. schemes in the region. He also accused Syria of confronting the U.S. friends, claiming that Jordan like Israel is threatened by Syria.

From this campaign, the U.S. President seeks to move the battle to another area and make the Jordanian regime believe that the danger comes from Syria and not from Israel in order to encourage it to entering direct negotiations with Israel, after the Husayn-Arafat negotiations have achieved large strides along this course. *TISHRIN* concludes: This is another sign that the U.S. President is trying to cover up for his failure in Lebanon and

in the Arab region in general, in wake of the successive defeats sustained by his administration, the latest being the abrogation of the 17 May agreement.

Further Comment on Speech

*JN142132 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Within the framework of his presidential election campaign and appeasement of the Zionist lobby, U.S. President Reagan yesterday told a group of American Jewish leaders that the friendship between the United States and Israel at present is stronger than at any time before, and that he wants to keep up this standard of friendship. He said that U.S. economic aid and military grants to Israel will enable Israel to enjoy qualitative supremacy.

He specifically attacked Syria because of its hampering of U.S. plans in the Middle East and because of its stand against the United States' friends whom he is encouraging to negotiate with Israel; more precisely, King Husayn.

Reagan claimed that Syria pressured Lebanon into abrogating the 17 May agreement. He also noted an increase in U.S. military aid to Jordan and said that Jordan is an important element in the achievement of peace in the Middle East. He added that like Israel, Jordan encounters Syrian confrontation and faces military threats, as he put it. He expressed his belief that it is in Israel's strategic interests, as it is in the interest of the United States, to ensure Jordan's defensive needs in order to face what he described as Syria's increasing strength. He also explained once again that the PLO must recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338 in order to make dealing with it possible.

Israel radio carried a report on Reagan's meeting with Jewish organizations and said that Reagan reassured the American Jews that guaranteeing Jordan's security will not constitute a threat to Israel's security. This is in addition to Reagan's urging Jordan to negotiate with Israel.

Arens Says Egyptians Violating Agreement

TA141025 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
14 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Gil Yodelovich and Yosef Walter]

[Excerpt] "The Egyptians are violating the agreement with Israel by maintaining the infrastructure for a field army near the Suez Canal," Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated yesterday during his first tour of Jewish settlements in the Gaza District in his capacity as defense minister. Arens added: "Although the Egyptians maintain the exact number of troops agreed in the treaty between the two countries, they have prepared an infrastructure that would allow them to introduce a full field army beyond the Suez Canal within a few hours if they wish to."

Minister Arens further noted: "The recall of the Egyptian ambassador is a gross violation of the Israeli-Egyptian agreement. The State of Israel gave up the Sinai and the Egyptians agreed to appoint an ambassador to Israel in exchange. The State of Israel regarded this as the first step toward the beginning of fine relations. Today, however, there is doubt about what will really grow in the Sinai sands."

Press on Egyptian Relations

TA140828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Text] Both the Histadrut's *DAVAR* and the National Religious Party's *HATZOFE* discuss the cold peace with Egypt.

Temperatures have dropped even lower of late, says *DAVAR*, and there is no doubt that Israel's pathetic Lebanese adventure gave the Egyptians the excuse they were waiting for. Israel is also guilty of bias in the autonomy talks which led to their inevitable stalling. The paper adds that Trade Minister [title as heard] Pat's recent talks in Cairo did not reveal any possibility of a political thaw. Despite all this, says *DAVAR*, the agreement with Egypt is the most precious we have, and Egyptian and Israeli leaders alike must not endanger it.

On the same topic *HATZOFE* says that the prime minister's latest remarks in the Knesset only point out once again the unsatisfactory situation regarding the agreement with Egypt. There seems to be little cause for hope of normalization.

Finance Minister Reveals Plan To Curb Inflation

TA141037 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
14 Mar 84 pp 1, 11

[Report on interview with Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad by Shraga Meqel; date and place not given]

[Text] Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad is asking the Histadrut and the employers to agree to a special move aimed at drastically and immediately reducing the rate of inflation in Israeli economy. The finance minister's proposal is as follows:

To freeze wages, prices and the shekel's rate of exchange for 4 to 6 months in the framework of "a social understanding" between the government, the employers and the Histadrut.

The aim of such a move would be to immediately curb the galloping rate of inflation which is currently reaching 10 to 15 percent a month while taking pains to improve the balance of payments while maintaining the low rates of unemployment.

Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad elaborated on his proposal in an interview with *MA'ARIV*.

— The Histadrut and the workers would give up wage increments.

— The government would freeze the cost of goods and services under its control and manufacturers would freeze their prices.

— The government would freeze the shekel's rate of exchange and would not effect any devaluations during the 4-6 month period of the "social understanding."

According to the finance minister, the rate of inflation would drop to a lower level as a result. Kohen-Orgad noted that unlike the situation a few months ago the economy is currently ripe for such a move due to the following reasons:

— The shekel's rate of exchange in real terms is at present 10 percent higher than in October 1983.

— Wages in real terms are currently 15 percent lower than in that period.

— The rates of subsidization of basic commodities are very low.

— A decision was reached to make substantive cuts in the state's budget.

"Without the 'social understanding,' inflation would drop at a more gradual pace and the rate of unemployment would be higher," the finance minister cautioned.

Question: If the Histadrut does not agree to the "social understanding" you are suggesting, what kind of wage agreements would you strive for next year?

Answer: Without a social understanding, we will not go for wage and cost of living agreements which would raise salaries in real terms over the level of 1981-1982.

Question: What are your plans regarding taxes?

Answer: There is a decision to impose taxes on the consumption of luxury goods and services such as big cars and large apartments. Additionally, we have made it very unprofitable not to pay taxes on time by raising the interest and the rate of indexing on debts.

Question: Are you determined not to change the law regarding the indexing of the compulsory government bonds for 1971 which are soon due for redemption (according to the present law the

value of the bonds will be largely eroded because they would be linked to the cost of living index for December 1983)?

Answer: If the government wants to encourage savings it must provide the proper conditions. However, when its resources are limited, the government must merely fulfill its obligations rather than volunteer to assume additional commitments. It should be noted that these compulsory government bonds are tantamount to taxes.

Question: It has recently been assessed that the recession in the economy is now over. What do you think is currently happening to the economy?

Answer: During the first months when this economic policy was being implemented people were apprehensive about the prospects and the functioning of the economy and this affected their behavior beyond the genuine drop in their income in real terms. Today, the public is no longer apprehensive about the survivability of the system and the feelings of anxiety have disappeared. One should bear in mind that after all it is only a matter of a 5 percent drop in private consumption in the "national budget" and a 7 percent drop in per capita private consumption, and this is not very harmful. The effect on the public of the cuts in the new budget and the new wage agreement is important not to have the achievements "disappear from our own hands."

Meshel Rejects Economic Plan

TA141250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Histadrut Secretary Yeruham Meshel has rejected the finance minister's proposal for an economic package deal. In an interview to our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum, he said such a deal is unnecessary and if the Finance Ministry changes its policy the Histadrut will treat this matter accordingly.

In an interview with *MA'ARIV*, Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad said today that he proposes that the Histadrut and the employers agree to a freeze of salaries, prices and the shekel's rate of exchange for 4 to 6 months.

Yeruham Meshel said that the employees and the Histadrut will not concede increments to their wages since it is only these increments that maintain the employees' real wages. However, Meshel noted, if it is proven in the future that the economic situation will improve, the Histadrut will treat this matter accordingly.

In an interview to our correspondent Gadi Sukenik, the finance minister said that he is giving up the expression of a package deal since in his opinion the Histadrut will not sign such a deal with a government with which it had ideological differences of opinion. He nevertheless called on the Histadrut and the employers to reach a social understanding [havana].

Yig'al Kohen-Orgad added he does not see the Histadrut's reaction as a final rejection and will continue to work toward the implementation of his plan.

MAPAM Calls on USSR To Let Jews Emigrate

TA142016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The MAPAM secretariat has called on Soviet authorities to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel, to release the prisoners of Zion, to stop harassing Jewish activists, and to end anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. MAPAM also calls on Soviet Jews to continue their struggle.

Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister on Recognizing Israel

TA141737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The Iraqi deputy foreign minister says his country is prepared to recognize Israel's right to exist. Our Washington correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the Iraqi deputy foreign minister said this at a meeting with reporters in Washington. Israeli correspondents attended as well, but were not allowed to ask questions.

Further Report

TA141757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1735 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Correspondents in Washington met this evening with Iraqi Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ismat Kitani. Razi Barqay, you were also there.

[Razi Barqay — live from Washington] That is correct. Israeli reporters were also invited, but we will get to that later. The headlines made by the Iraqi deputy minister of foreign affairs are as follows: Iraq — he said — believes that the Fes formula accepted by all the Arab countries is a good basis for a solution. However, he added, let us not forget that the Palestinian problem is the heart and core of the Middle East conflict.

'Ismat Kitani is trying to effect in Washington a U.S.-Iraqi rapprochement in light of Iran's success in the war. The lion's share of the news conference was devoted to the Iran-Iraq issue, but the statements about Israel nonetheless received special attention.

[Kitani — in English] And I think no one — it's farfetched to say — does not include Israel. Whoever said that doesn't understand the whole process of the negotiations on this. The Arabs at the highest level, and after so much agony, would not come up with a thing that will be imposed on Israel, or that will ignore the existence of Israel. That defies logic.

[Barqay translates the above and continues] Kitani continued, nevertheless, by saying that the problem lies in Israel's refusal to negotiate over territories in return for peace and its colonial policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As for the participation of Israeli correspondents, the meeting with Kitani was held under the auspices of the Institute for Policy Research, located in Washington, and — as we have already said — five Israeli reporters were also invited, but that required

precoordination between the top members of that research institute and Kitani. The Israelis were allowed to sit in the hall, but were not allowed to ask questions. We protested this; but the institute's argument, we were told, was that this is not intentional, but that there were simply too many questions. This was the institute's pretext, which naturally was unacceptable to us, but we were still prevented from asking the man any questions.

Incidentally, let me point out two news items vis-a-vis the Iran-Iraq issue: The Iraqi deputy foreign minister firmly denied allegations that Iraq is using chemical weapons. He said Iraq is prepared to have an international investigation of the matter. Second, he called on the United States, Japan, and European countries to boycott Khomeyni's oil. He said that if no one buys oil from Iran, it will be bankrupt.

49 Syrian Officers Arrested for Conspiracy

TA150717 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] Forty-nine Syrian officers of various ranks have been arrested in the last few days on charges of having conspired against the regime.

They will be tried for treason. Another 20 officers who are suspected of having been linked to this group succeeded in fleeing to Jordan. Reporting on this, U.S. sources [meqorot amariqayim] in Damascus pointed out that Syria's strongman, the president's brother Rif'at, had a hand in uncovering this group.

The sources further disclosed that Syrian Chief of Staff General Ash-Shihabi had made several secret visits to the United States and that U.S. intelligence officials had tried to reconcile him and Rif'at al-Asad.

Reagan, Lewis Intercede on Ash-Shawwa Visit

TA141154 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by correspondent in the south Dani Tzidqoni]

[Excerpt] President Reagan and U.S. Ambassador in Israel Samuel Lewis participated in an effort to permit the deposed mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, to depart for the United States at the request of the U.S. Psychiatric Society. In a congress next week this society will discuss the psychological effect of the Israeli-Arab conflict on those involved in it and Ash-Shawwa will participate in the deliberations.

Sources in Gaza who told me about Ash-Shawwa's departure for the United States at the end of the week following the intervention of U.S. Administration elements pointed out that the mayor [apparent line drop in paper] his brother, the engineer 'Isam ash-Shawwa, and another relative, Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah who directs a hospital for retarded children in Gaza.

The DAVAR correspondent has learned that senior government elements have recently held talks with dignitaries in the Gaza Strip to look into their opinion about the possibility of returning

the Gaza Strip to Egyptian administration. Meanwhile, the Civilian Administration is exerting extensive efforts to placate tempers in Rafah. The city has been in turmoil because of rumors that Israel is going to hand the Palestinian half of the city to Egyptian rule and withdraw to the "Morag line" (named after an Israeli settlement northwest of Rafah bearing the same name). The possibility should not be ruled out that the Egyptians were the ones who created the turmoil which has also been linked to the fact that the identity cards of some of the inhabitants have not been renewed.

Officials, Minister Ne'eman on Reagan Speech

TA141247 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Report by David Essing — recorded]

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem say Reagan's speech contained many positive points but also well-known issues on which there are differences. This applies to Jerusalem, settlements, and the U.S. arms deal with Jordan. The officials say Israel's stand has not changed on any of these questions. However, Cabinet Minister Yuval Ne'eman takes a tougher position. This was his reaction to Reagan's statement about Jerusalem:

[Ne'eman] The status of Jerusalem he has mentioned was really decided 2,000 years ago and I think that if he takes out his Gideon Bible wherever he is staying tonight he can look it up in the right place. Jerusalem was the capital of Israel and still is the capital of Israel and I don't think any kind of discussion can change that fact. A visit to Jerusalem nowadays would confirm what he can read in the Book of Samuel.

[Essing] Professor Ne'eman, you chair the Ministerial Settlement Committee. There have been reports that perhaps Israel, under U.S. pressure, is toning down new settlements. What is your reaction to this?

[Ne'eman] It's complete nonsense. The program for this coming year is to establish 16 new settlements paid for by the government and a number — and that number is uncertain because it depends on private investments — that I would rate as between 5 and 10 private settlements. So, altogether I think that we'll have more than 20 new settlements in this coming year.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT on Reagan Speech

TA151006 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Mar 84

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] YEDI'OT AHARONOT says that President Reagan's remarks to young leaders of the United Jewish Appeal are a classic example of how one may make harsh and offensive declarations using the nicest words. Reagan mainly said that Israel should give up on the territories, agree to the supply of U.S. weapons to Jordan, rescind the Knesset resolutions about Jerusalem and contribute to a reconciliation between Iraq and Iran — all this in order to promote peace in the region.

U.S. Missile Deal With Jordan, Saudi Arabia Opposed

TA141021 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Washington is trying to foil the supply of Stinger missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Political sources in Jerusalem say that Israel takes a very serious view of the proposed deal to supply shoulder-launched missiles to these countries, more serious than the view of the proposal to establish a U.S.-Trained rapid deployment force in Jordan. Israel argues that the Stinger missiles might reach the terrorist organizations which then might use them against Israel.

Shamir Opposition Reported

TA151009 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
15 Mar 84 p 6

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] In a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his opposition to the administration's plan to supply anti-aircraft "Stinger" missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia and pointed out that a serious view should be taken of the introduction of these weapons to the area.

Nevertheless, Shamir reacted favorably to President Reagan's remarks about the PLO in an appearance before the young leadership of the United Jewish Appeal and to the President's announcement that he intends to struggle for the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union.

The meeting was initiated by Ambassador Lewis and lasted over an hour. Both men exchanged assessments and information about the latest developments at the Lausanne conference on the Lebanese issue. It emerged that the United States is rather detached from the developments in Lebanon and that it can no longer pull its weight to influence the events and moves there.

Agreement Reached on Storing U.S. Equipment in Israel

TA151011 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
15 Mar 84 p 1

[Report from New York by Yehuda Atlas]

[Text] The United States and Israel have agreed to store tanks, cannons and other heavy equipment in Israel. This decision was made in contacts held in the last 2 weeks in the framework of the joint U.S.-Israeli military committee and has been approved by President Reagan.

This is reported by YISRA'EL SHELANU, the Hebrew-language paper that appears in New York.

MA'ARIV Commentary on Moscow Stance Toward Israel

TA121649 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
12 Mar 84 p 8

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Threats From Moscow"]

[Text] In the 1950's Sergey Losev was the TASS correspondent in Israel. He was the last Soviet representative to leave Israel following the outbreak of the six day war. Several years ago he was appointed director of TASS, the Soviet news agency, and in this senior position he recently published an article against the strategic agreement between Israel and the United States.

That was the only response the Israeli prime minister received to the message he sent to the Soviet Government (via the Netherlands ambassador in Moscow who represents Israeli interests in the USSR), in which he denied Soviet press reports that the United States was going to position missiles directed against the Soviet Union in Israel. Israel took the trouble to refute this falsehood, but the ex-TASS correspondent to Israel again attacked Israel on this issue, reminding Israel that in 1953 it undertook, in an exchange of messages between Moshe Sharet [Israel's prime minister and foreign minister in 1953-1955] and Vyacheslav Molotov, not to become part of any military alliance against the USSR.

More serious than this statement, which was published in a serious Soviet magazine, is the threat to Israel's legitimacy. The writer digs up from the archives a UN resolution of 29 November 1947, and claims that Israel's refusal to fulfill the UN decision on founding an Arab state in part of Eretz Yisra'el undermines the international, legal basis for recognition of the State of Israel.

Moreover, the TASS director even threatens a retaliatory blow against Israel if U.S. bases are set up on its territory. This is what he wrote: "Israel's willingness to offer the United States air and naval bases on its territory turns it into a target for a retaliatory blow, and undermines the basis for Israel's existence as a nation."

Since he assumed office as prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir has tried various ways of opening a dialogue with the Soviet Union. The soothing message to Moscow that Israel does not intend to allow missiles on its territory was one of the moves intended to dissipate tension between Moscow and Jerusalem, but these signals have been unanswered.

The Soviet Radio Peace and Progress addressed itself to Yitzhaq Shamir's appeals to Moscow in its Hebrew broadcast on 28 February, claiming that these appeals were made in order to divert public opinion from the anti-Soviet strategic agreement between Israel and the United States.

The Soviet commentator did not settle for mere criticism, but seized the opportunity to add a threat to Israel that the Israeli-U.S. military alliance runs counter to Israel's interests "since Israel's territory is being turned into a U.S. arsenal."

The intensified anti-Israeli campaign is reinforced by an increasing feeling in Moscow that the United States is going through a process of retreat in the Middle East. The more it

seems to the Soviet Union that the United States is withdrawing from a number of positions in the Middle East, the more it increases its attacks on Israel.

This is how the Soviets have acted in every Middle East crisis: As long as the Soviets feared a military confrontation with the United States, they used cautious language; but the moment they were convinced there was no danger of confrontation, they began threatening U.S. allies, mostly Israel. That was the case at the end of the 1956 Sinai campaign, at the end of the six day war, and at the end of the Yom Kippur war.

Throughout the Lebanese war, the USSR adopted a cautious line, refraining from direct intervention, neither threatening nor issuing warnings. However, when it noticed the U.S. retreat from Beirut, it became firmer. Within a few weeks we witnessed various expressions of Soviet firmness in the Middle East.

A. The Soviet Union vetoed a French draft resolution to position a UN force in Beirut as long as the 6th Fleet ships are sailing in Lebanese waters.

B. A Politburo member and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Geydar Aliyev, arrived in Damascus yesterday in order to coordinate positions with the Syrian Government in the Lebanese crisis.

C. A large Soviet military offensive has begun in Afghanistan.

D. The Soviet Union issued a warning to the United States against U.S. warships sailing in the Persian Gulf.

E. The Soviet anti-Israeli campaign of threats over the United States' strategic understanding with Israel included threats of a retaliatory blow and undermining Israel's legitimacy.

After the 6-day war, the Soviet Union reinforced its Navy in the Mediterranean, and it was feared that the 6th Fleet thus lost its operational ability in the Middle East since the Soviet Navy sat on its tail. The U.S. warships which have operated off the Lebanese coast in recent months have proven to the Soviets that the Americans have not lost their military power, but the withdrawal from Lebanon has increased Soviet confidence that the United States is losing its political maneuverability, since the fleet's power did not cover up its political weakness. As a result, the Soviets are now trying to increase their pressure on Washington. They assume that this pressure does not involve any military risks, and the pressures are first and foremost directed at U.S. public opinion, where the Soviets are seeking vulnerable points. This Soviet pressure is yielding fruit already. While Washington is awaiting Husayn's positive answer to Reagan's initiative, 'Arafat has announced that Husayn will participate in a joint delegation with the PLO which will leave for Moscow, while Husayn no longer talks of the "Reagan plan" but rather of the "Fes plan."

This does not mean that Husayn is prepared to give up the promise of U.S. aid in case of a Syrian threat to his kingdom. This is sort of an insurance policy, but since the Soviet policy is becoming more aggressive in view of the U.S. retreat, the statesmen called "moderate" by the Americans are also trem-

bling. We may then face a new wave of Soviet threats despite all of Israel's efforts to get a dialogue going and to lessen the tension.

Sharon Warns U.S. Against Supplying Weapons to Jordan *TA151013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has warned the United States against supplying sophisticated weapons to Jordan saying that they would only be directed against Israel and not against Syria or the Soviet Union. If Jordan receives these weapons they would ultimately reach the PLO, Sharon stated in a speech in New York. He also accused certain European countries of having helped Iraq develop chemical weapons.

Police Release Ashdod Bus Explosion Suspects *TA142021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] The Ashdod police have released the eight Gaza inhabitants who were held for 8 days in connection with the bus explosion in the city's center. Investigators have not arrived at a final conclusion as to the causes of the explosion and various leads are still being followed up.

Sidon Port Reopened to Traffic 15 March *TA150515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] The port of Sidon reopened to traffic this morning. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht recalls that the IDF closed the port 11 days ago after three bombs exploded on the pier killing 1 soldier and wounding 10 others. IDF officers made it plain to those using the port of Sidon that they were also considered responsible for the explosions. The latter promised to organize watches and patrols and the IDF has tightened its security arrangements.

Government Denies Seeking New Lebanon Pact *TA150727 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 84 p 1*

[Text] An Israeli official last night ridiculed Lebanese reports that Jerusalem wants to renegotiate a security agreement with the Beirut government to replace last May's accord which has been abrogated by President Amin al-Jumayyil. "It does not even merit a denial," the official said.

Earlier in the day, the Beirut newspaper *AN-NAHAR* quoted an unnamed "highly informed Lebanese source" in Lausanne as saying Israel had threatened to disrupt the cease-fire if Lebanon fails to negotiate a substitute for the pact. The report said the warning was served in private contacts between Israeli observers, also unnamed, and Lebanese officials in Lausanne.

Earlier agency reports from the Swiss city said that Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, was in Lausanne to

monitor the Lebanese reconciliation conference currently taking place there. But in Israel, an aide to Lubrani said the Defence Ministry man was in Tel Aviv last night.

AN-NAHAR said Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who is taking part in the Lausanne conference as an observer, made no objections to Lebanon's willingness for new negotiations on security arrangements with Israel.

Southern Lebanese Army Expanding Activities

*TA150850 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
15 Mar 84 p 1*

[Report by military correspondent Mikha'el Gerti]

[Text] Units of the southern Lebanese army have recently expanded their activities in southern Lebanon — in the strip close to the Israeli border, in the southern Al-Biq'a' area and in the vicinity of Jazzin — and has been recruiting new volunteers from all the sects in Lebanon.

The southern Lebanese army, known as "Haddad's Army," has reorganized into a regular military framework with the help of the IDF and has recently undertaken specific missions of securing traffic axes, conducting patrols and controlling road checkpoints.

Despite the expanded activities of the southern Lebanese army, dignitaries in southern Lebanon yesterday expressed their apprehension that if the IDF were to withdraw at present, this army would have difficulty maintaining security in southern Lebanon on its own.

Mayors and clerics in the Jazzin area yesterday said that it would take some time before the southern Lebanese army is capable of undertaking responsibility for the security of the region. The mayor of Rum, George Haddad, called on Israel not to withdraw the IDF from the region before ensuring security arrangements for it. The southern Lebanese army has in the last few weeks scored several successes by seizing sabotage materiel and suspected hostile elements both at roadblocks and in more complex operations. For example, the southern Lebanese army conducted the blockade and searches in the village of 'Arab Salim northeast of An-Nabatiyah where two IDF soldiers were killed 10 days ago.

Incidents Involving IDF Reported in Lebanon

Explosion Near Sidon Convoy

*TA141121 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] Our correspondent has just informed us that there was another attempt to attack IDF soldiers in Lebanon in the last hour. There were no casualties. A bomb exploded on the side of the road when an IDF convoy was making its way east of Sidon at around 1230. As reported, there were no casualties and the IDF forces opened fire at the site where somebody was seen planting this bomb.

Rocket Fired in An-Nabatiyah

*TA141410 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] A Katyusha rocket was fired this morning toward an IDF post in the An-Nabatiyah area. There were no injuries.

Sidon Post Attacked

*TA141533 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] An RPG was fired at an IDF post in Sidon about 1 hour ago. There were no injuries. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that this is the fourth attempt in the last 24 hours to attack IDF forces in Sidon.

Dani Sham'un Interviewed on Lausanne Talks

*TA141908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Report on interview with Lebanese Christian leader Dani Sham'un by David Witzthum in Lausanne on 14 March — recorded, with Sham'un remarks in English]

[Text] [Witzthum] Dani Sham'un, the son of aging leader Camille Sham'un, is an enthusiastic supporter of the federation idea or the division of Lebanon into districts according to its factional composition. This idea is acceptable to Israel, too. Sham'un opposes the appointment of a prime minister who is not acceptable to the president, but regards the traditional division of power in Lebanon as a mistake. He believes Syria has complete control over the Lebanon conference, and the most recent example proving this is last night's cease-fire agreement [heskem].

[Sham'un] The conference, I would say, is totally dominated by the Syrian presence. Witness the cease-fire agreement as it was announced: It is the handiwork of Mr Khaddam. The Lebanese argued for 6 consecutive hours, and then Khaddam came out with exactly the same announcement that the committee previously in the committee had drawn up, but nobody was there to take into consideration what the committee had done the night before.

[Witzthum translates and continues] The Syrians are controlling the conference through Vice President Khaddam and thanks to the Syrian Army's presence in Lebanon. Will it be possible to find an alternative to the Israeli-Lebanese accord, I asked him, and Sham'un said: This depends on the Israelis.

[Sham'un] Well, it depends on the Israelis whether they still have confidence in any written agreement with the Lebanese Government as it is. Should the situation, however, change and there should be a new conference and a new Lebanon than it is, I think Israel should give any agreement a chance, a security agreement which will guarantee Israel's northern border, the security of its people. We want this.

[Witzthum translates and continues] We want to live in peace with Israel, and if we have peace, normalization will also gradually occur, Dani Sham'un says. However, as the course of

events has shown, the Lebanese are incapable of promising anything more than a security agreement [heskem] at the moment, but we will make a sincere effort, from the bottom of our hearts, to reach such an agreement. In this we should follow President al-Jumayyil. Syrian President al-Asad told Al-Jumayyil during their meeting in Damascus that there should be no problem in connection with security arrangements with Israel.

HA'ARETZ Analyzes Government Policies

TA131558 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Mar 84 p 11

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Relations of the Third Kind")]

[Text] The idea of Lebanese-Israeli-Egyptian package tours — which Menahem Begin envisioned on 17 May 1983 — appears at the beginning of March 1984 to have been postponed to the end of time. Jerusalem is still wondering how Israeli-Lebanese relations will develop following the abrogation of the agreement. The victory for Syrian violence and President al-Jumayyil's forced devotion to Damascus will dictate new policy lines by the Lebanese central government toward Jerusalem. Even though most policymakers in Israel predicted the abrogation, they still find it hard not to feel humiliated and disappointed by their partner at B'abda Palace. This feeling has led Yitzhaq Shamir and his advisers to choose a different path from that of "the special relations with the Christians." There are signs that they understand that security arrangements to ensure peace in the Galilee — the last attainable remnant of the war's aims — are not up to Amin al-Jumayyil's regime.

The signing of the agreement in Khaldah and Netanya attracted Syrian fire on Beirut. President al-Asad taught Al-Jumayyil the hard way that there is a price to be paid for having relations with Israel. Following the signing, Israel was ready to welcome the slightest progress toward implementing the military clauses and to postpone normalization until better days. For 10 months Israel and the United States attempted to put some backbone into Al-Jumayyil to confront the Syrian steamroller. The Americans convinced the Israeli Government to give the Lebanese president more credit than was warranted based on his internal political assets and his real military power. The withdrawal to the Al-Awwali came at last, notwithstanding Washington's concern at the "abandonment" of Al-Jumayyil to the hands of his enemies, and the latter's protests about the "partition of Lebanon."

The claim that the redeployment along the Al-Awwali caused the partition of Lebanon is rejected with the formal explanation that this move was stipulated in the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. The abrogation of the agreement will make it difficult for the government to come up with a similar explanation before withdrawing farther south to the Az-Zahrani. The government spokesman's reaction to the abrogation was phrased very carefully in order to leave a narrow legal loophole for that eventuality. His announcement emphasized that Lebanon had surrendered to a Syrian diktat, whereas Israel remains dedicated to the agreement and is willing to implement it at any time.

After Al-Jumayyil backed away from the remainder of his commitment to Israel, Israel cannot be expected to sweat over

coming up with legal arguments for its withdrawal to the Az-Zahrani. President Reagan has shown Israel the way out of Lebanon. He too is not in a comfortable position today to approach Israel with demands, such as where and when it must redeploy its forces. Al-Jumayyil has decided to put his trust in the Syrians and has abandoned Israel. Shamir avoided reacting emotionally like a betrayed husband. Sources close to him point to a new attitude toward Al-Jumayyil. Shamir believes that it is better to maintain discreet relations with the central government, along with a silent agreement to the presence of the Syrian lover. Following his victory, Al-Asad can be magnanimous. Israel will continue to be assisted by the Phalange leaders, who still remain faithful to it, in order to form a security infrastructure in southern Lebanon. The security arrangements between the Al-Awwali and the redeployment line will be based upon local forces from all the communities who will agree to cooperate under the umbrella of the "Lebanese Forces."

Among the defense establishment, as well as among politicians, not much hope is placed on these ephemeral partners. Whether the Syrians and the central government like it or not — the IDF will continue to carry the security load in Lebanon for a long time to come. The basic security premise will resemble that of the West Bank more than the "security strip," with the temporary connotation attributed to it. In consultations held in Jerusalem last week some positive aspects to the abrogation of the agreement were seen. Israel can play the role of the betrayed partner, which is now permitted to look after its own needs. If Syria is allowed to dictate moves to Al-Jumayyil, why should Israel not be allowed to hold on to territory it believes is necessary to ensure its vital security interests?

The situation as it appears now is very similar to the defense establishment's prediction of 4 months ago: *de facto* partition of Lebanon, with each side working to ensure its own interests — Israel will remain in southern Lebanon; Syria will remain in the areas it controls while also attempting to dictate the nature of the Lebanese Government and to push Israel out of Lebanon; and the central government will continue to fight for its very existence in the Beirut area.

The Lausanne conference is likely to make it clear that Al-Asad rather than Al-Jumayyil is Israel's partner in any settlement in Lebanon. After abrogating the agreement Israel owes no respect to the Lebanese president, not even for appearance's sake. After the unavoidable period of rupture, it is possible that the United States and Israel will renew the effort to achieve a settlement with Syria. Israel has in fact agreed to the Syrian's Army presence in the Al-Biq'a'. It is not likely that the Lausanne conference will bring about its withdrawal from there.

What remains is to pave the way for decreasing the numbers or separating the Syrian and the IDF forces in the eastern sector. Such an arrangement would lessen the dangerous friction between the two armies and would serve as a test for a withdrawal to international borders in all sectors. What will our relations be like with what remains of the Al-Jumayyil regime? It seems that not much importance should be attributed to this. No love child will result from mild flirtation.

ALGERIA

Iran's Velayati Continues Talks in Algiers

Meetings With Ibrahimi, Brahimi

LD141111 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, 14 /3 (APS) — The Algerian-Iranian talks were held on Tuesday here between delegations from both countries, presided over by Messrs Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and 'Ali Akhbar Velayati, Algerian and Iranian ministers of foreign affairs. The Iranian minister also conferred with the prime minister, Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi, on the reinforcement of bilateral relations and international questions. Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, chief of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, also met with the Iranian delegation.

Velayati Reports on Talks

LD142123 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, March 14, IRNA — The Zionist regime still occupies parts of Lebanon, but there are still hopeful developments, such as the expulsion of the multinational interventionist forces from Lebanon and also the United States' admission of defeat there, Foreign Minister Velayati said. Dr. Velayati, speaking after the second round of talks with his Algerian counterpart here Tuesday [13 March], said that during the talks he expressed optimism that the struggles of the Muslim people of Lebanon would clear the ground for the establishment of a popular government in that country. He said reactionary circles in the region were trying to move in the lines of the Camp David treaty and bar the possibility of forming an independent and popular government in Lebanon.

The Iranian foreign minister also spoke in support of the struggling nation of the Western Sahara and congratulated them on their victory in the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity. However, he said the United States and France were continuing their plots against the security and sovereignty of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. On the racist regime in South Africa, Dr. Velayati said the threat of South Africa to its neighbors was not different from that of the Zionist regime in the Middle East.

The Algerian foreign minister, Mr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi also said that talks with the Iranian officials had brought the two countries closer together. He said Algeria hoped to play its role in the proper implementation of the Algiers accord.

Velayati Meets With Bendjedid

LD142136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Correspondent report from Algiers]

[Excerpt] Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's minister of foreign affairs, had talks with Mr Chadli Bendjedid, the Algerian president this morning.

During the meeting, the Algerian president, in his welcome to our foreign minister, inquired about the health of Imam Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and of Hojjat ol-Islam Khamene'i, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and wished good health to the imam of the Islamic nation. Commenting on the meetings between the two countries' officials, he then said: The exchange of views between the two countries' officials is both essential and necessary, particularly when we are living in a world full of tension. At a time when they are being subjected to vast onslaughts, Islam and the Islamic movement have terrified the world because Islamic movements, apart from their political dimension, also have extensive cultural dimensions. It is for this reason that propaganda attacks against Islam have been stepped up with the aim of misrepresenting Islam.

Mr Chadli Bendjedid also said: In return, we should strive to strengthen our relations and should also have firm ties with those countries following on the path of Islam. The Algerian president then noted the joint ties between the two countries and said: There exists a joint desire to expand Iranian-Algerian relations in the economic, political and cultural fields. These relations should be further expanded and the two countries' officials should lay out the preliminary groundwork for them. He added: The Third World is suffering from a great many crises, and these crises are causing the gap among Third World countries to become greater. But we should strive to attaining greater Islamic unity and civilization.

During the meeting, Mr Velayati referred to the useful results of his visit to Algeria and said: During meetings with your country's officials, we exchanged views on problems of interest to the two countries, and mutual understanding existed in all areas. We, too, believe that visits between the two countries should be further increased since a practical understanding of the two countries' positions is our aim. He added: We should have further cooperation between ourselves, since reactionism and the conservative wing have concerted their efforts. The progressive wing, too, should further increase its efforts.

Iranian Visitors Depart

LD142336 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Dr 'Ali Akhbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him left Algeria today after a 4-day official visit, during which he had talks with a number of Algerian officials concerning matters of common interest, especially the situation in the Middle East and Africa.

Before leaving Algeria, Dr Velayati held a press conference at which he explained that his visit to Algeria had been very useful and was characterized by the many meetings with Algerian officials. He pointed out that Algerian-Iranian relations are friendly and encompass the political, cultural and economic fields. Dr Velayati added that he discussed with the brother officials, and in particular his counterpart Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the various aspects [as heard] and agreed on an exchange of visits by economic experts from the two countries.

The Iranian foreign affairs minister also answered press questions concerning matters of common interest regarding the region.

Briefs

Accord Signed With USSR — Algiers, 11/3 (APS) — An Algerian-Soviet protocol of agreement in the cinematography field was concluded Saturday here. The document, signed by the secretary general of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the ambassador of the Soviet Union to Algiers, will [word indistinct] in the future, the bilateral cooperation in the field of cinema. It will go beyond traditional forms of cooperation focused on exchanges, the buying and lending of films, the training of qualified staff, to set up conditions, the framework and practical modalities to facilitate the achievement of cinematography co-production. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1038 GMT 11 Mar 84 LD]

LIBYA

JANA Editor on UK 'Campaign of Hatred'

LD141537 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 14 Mar 84

["JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY Political Editor Condemns British Campaign of Hatred Against Libya" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 10, March 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The British authorities have brought more invalid accusations which were raised in a provocative manner against some Libyans who were arrested on allegations of claimed charges of involvement in explosions that took place recently in London and Manchester. In spite of the fact that the British authorities have no evidence to substantiate these allegations, London radio [as received] reported this morning that a number of Libyans who had been interrogated by the British police are to appear later in court.

The British insistence on raising unfounded accusations against Libyans in Britain is related to racist ways upon which the widespread campaign of hatred against Libyan Arab people is based to cover up the British authorities' involvement in suspicious operations being prepared to make Libyan revolutionary forces in Britain their target.

It is clear evidence in the campaign that these planted and deceptive operations led to the arrest of 23 Libyan nationals under very severe conditions without finding any evidence against them. [sentence as received] This situation confirms that these aggressive actions of the British Government are aimed at fueling the fire of hatred against Libyans which came in a wave of untrue accusations against our nationals in Britain and showed that the British actions were well-planned and deliberate; to surround Libyans and paralyze their legitimate activities by portraying them with a character incompatible with the original one which takes into consideration the friendly relations between the Libyan Arab people and the British people.

These actions of the British Government must be construed as a shameful conspiracy with stray dogs who have been used by the British authorities as an excuse for the unfair campaign, and cannot be under any circumstances a reason to accept the British behavior towards Libya. It rejects raising fabricated accusations against its nationals and involving them with planted and deceptive ways contrary to all norms of international law.

It strongly rejects involving Libya in this manner, which is conspired by Britain to harm our reputation and stands in for deliberate aggressive purposes. It calls for the immediate release of all Libyan nationals who have been arrested unjustifiably, and retains the right to take necessary measures to protect the rights and interests of its nationals according to the norms of international law.

Al-Qadhdhafi Amends Law on Military Training

Addresses Women on Change

LD122146 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Here is a recording of the speech made by the brother leader of the revolution at his meeting today with female employees in secretariats and companies, and female producers in factories who have joined the Yawm ath-Tha'r unit camp.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qadhdhafi] I want to speak about the law that had led to a problem; namely the ending of military training in women's mass institutions, and which led to the series of demonstrations by schoolgirls calling for the continuation of military training. For this purpose, a series of student popular congresses were held, where student elements were in a majority.

I have chosen to speak at this camp so as to settle today the issue of the armed people law which had been submitted to the popular congresses in a certain way, and had been amended in the popular congresses in another way. This led to depriving women of the honor of defending the homeland, and even the right to self-defense. It made them [word indistinct] and the new formula in fact caused damage to the material and moral achievements scored by women in the Jamahiriyah.

Girls have protested against the amended law and staged demonstrations, and there have been popular congresses with girl students as a majority calling for the continuation of the program for general military training, and for military training for women not to be an option.

Therefore, out of respect for the popular will, the will of the active forces, girl students, working woman, producing women — this is proven by this gathering before me of employed women, working women, producing women — women staying at home who are not even students here in this camp every day — to understand the challenge of military training... out of respect for and also in submission to the will of these women student masses and active female forces gathered in front of me, the student congresses that have been held, the demonstrations staged by women protesting against this law... there is therefore ground for an amendment to be introduced to this law.

In submission to the will of the masses and in implementation of popular democracy, the law will be as follows: We Libyans, men and women, whoever among us becomes of age, shall undergo continuous military training so long as he or she is able to do so, health permitting.

You are the ones who have changed this law before me. The popular congresses had issued a formula; then there had been demonstrations, congresses were held and gatherings of women in camps like this took place that have led to the amendments of this law. Therefore, military training is mandatory for Libyans, men and women. [chants and slogans].

However, orientation to the military institutes will remain open for boys only until women have decided that they accept orientation to the military institutes just like men. [end recording]

Text of New Law

LD141609 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT
14 Mar 84

["Text" of Statute No 3 for 1984 on the armed people, issued on 13 March]

[Text] The General People's Congress:

To implement the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses at their third ordinary session of 1983, drawn up by the general meeting of the Basic People's Congresses and the People's Committees, trade unions, associations, vocational societies and the General People's Congress in its 9th ordinary session of 1984, and to confirm the decisions of the Basic Peoples Congresses and the Women Students Congresses during their emergency session of March 1984, the following statute has been enacted:

Article 1:

We Libyans, males and females, who have come of age, are to be continuously militarily trained, as long as we are physically able.

Article 2:

Military sciences are to be among the basic subjects of education in all stages of education above the elementary level.

Article 3:

Military studies and training in military establishments, to prepare specialized cadres for warfare, is to apply to males only as long as necessary.

Article 4:

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is to be divided into defensive regions. Responsibility for defending each region will rest with the inhabitants of the region. The defensive regions are to form strategic reserves for each other at the Jamahiriya level. The division is to take place by a decision to be issued by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Article 5:

The provisions of the statute do not contravene the provisions of the Compulsory Military Service Statute. Relief from compulsory military service may be effected once the person due for

service has proven his success in the program of military training and has adhered to it. A decision on such exceptions are to be issued by the chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Article 6:

Anyone who does not respond to the call for the prescribed military training will be punished according to the provisions, methods and measures stipulated in the Compulsory Military Service Statute.

Article 7:

The chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces is to publish the executive lists and decisions of this statute and the orders and instructions connected with this.

Article 8:

Any statute contravening the provision of this statute is hereby cancelled.

Article 9:

This statute is to come into force on the date it is made public and to be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] The General People's Congress, 13 March 1984

Major Jallud Speaks at Tripoli Rally

NC131240 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1205 GMT
12 Mar 84

[Speech by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud in Tripoli at a public rally of Egyptians living in Libya — live]

[Excerpts] Free brothers, thanks be to God for the day which has come in which the Arab will has triumphed. Thanks be to God for enabling us to overcome the psychological defeat which the Arab citizens have experienced for scores of years.

Brothers, the Beirut battle and its pan-Arab results constituted a real response to the [word indistinct] and resolutions adopted by this Arab Jamahiriya country. The Beirut battle constituted the victory of the masses on the level of the Lebanese masses and constituted the pan-Arab cohesion among Libya, Syria, the Lebanese masses and the new Palestinian revolution, especially [words indistinct]. This battle represented the first real Arab victory and the first defeat of the United States by the Arabs following its defeats in Korea and Vietnam. This battle proved the correctness of the Jamahiriya's revolutionary course [words indistinct].

The pan-Arab battle [words indistinct] and in which were allied the Arab masses in Libya, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution, especially [words indistinct] and the new Fatah revolution, has opened new vistas for pan-Arab activity, whether on the level of unity work and destroying borders, or on the level of confronting the United States, Zionism and reactionism.

The pan-Arab battle in Lebanon was not a physical victory for the Libyan people, the Arab masses, and the nationalist forces in Lebanon, but was an ideological victory for the new Jamahiriya

thought. We have seen, and the Arab masses from the ocean to the Gulf have seen with us how the Arab masses are able to do the impossible when they are liberated from the dictatorship of rulers and when they are liberated from the control of the feudalists and bourgeois, and when they shoulder their responsibilities.

The victory of the Arab masses in Lebanon and their confrontation of the NATO, U.S., fascist Phalange party and Zionist forces marks the beginning of the liberation of the Arab citizen from the ocean to the Gulf, from the nightmare of psychological defeat. It also marks the beginning of the historic victory of the Arab masses and the beginning of the defeat of Zionism in Palestine, as well as the defeat of Arab reactionism, the defeat of regionalism and the defeat of U.S.-led Western imperialism.

Therefore, the victory in Lebanon must be used for the victory of the Egyptian masses in Egypt, for the victory of the Sudanese masses in Sudan and for the victory of the masses in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf [words indistinct].

Brothers, Egypt means a lot to the Arab unionists and nationalists. We are proud of our Egyptian masses. We are proud of our Arab masses in Egypt. We have full confidence that these masses will rise, like the small Lebanese people rose. The Egyptian people have all the material, moral, historic, cultural and human potential to trample down the Camp David agreements, to break the Camp David shackles, and to restore Egypt to its former proud, dignified, strong and great status as a leader in the march of the Arab revolutionary struggle for unity, progress and socialism.

Brothers, what is left for Egypt after we have seen it a captive tethered by the Camp David chains. The Koran has been distorted in Egypt. We see the Holy al-Azhar, which used to issue formal legal opinions calling for a holy war against Israel and the Zionists — we see it now issuing formal legal opinions supporting the Camp David agreements. Under As-Sadat, and under the successors to As-Sadat, Al-Azhar has issued formal legal opinions allowing the Egyptians to shake hands with the Zionist Jews.

Henceforth, there is no justification for the Egyptian masses to remain silent. Following the historic victory scored by the Shi'ite and Druze masses against the NATO and U.S. forces, against the Zionist forces, and against the fascist forces, there is no justification for the Egyptian masses, especially the active forces — the Nasirite, leftist and Islamic forces — to keep Egypt tied one more day to Camp David. All the nationalist, Islamic, unionist and Nasirite forces in Egypt should rally together to trample down Camp David and liberate Egypt from the shackles of Camp David. Egypt will then again be in the forefront of the pan-Arab, unionist, socialist struggle and assume its leading role.

Brothers, 'Abd an-Nasir is calling us from his grave to avenge him. His chaste soul is calling us to carry arms and liberate Egypt from the shackles of Camp David. This is what 'Abd an-Nasir wants from us. Shouting slogans for 'Abd an-Nasir is a disservice to 'Abd an-Nasir. 'Abd an-Nasir will not rest in his grave until Egypt is liberated from the Camp David shackles and returns to lead the unionist, pan-Arab, socialist, liberation march in the Arab world.

Brothers, when I read the history of the Egyptian masses' movement and Egypt's national pan-Arab and Islamic role, and then look at the Egyptian masses now, I see two different pictures. There is a big difference between yesterday's Al-Azhar which incited holy war and liberation, and today's Al-Azhar which issues formal legal opinions allowing handshakes with the Israelis and Jews. There is a big difference between the role of the Egyptian universities in the past, and their role now. There is a big difference between the Egyptian workers' role in the past, and their role now. There is a big difference between the pan-Arab and national role of the Egyptian Army in the past, and its role now.

Brothers, a small people, or rather a part of the Lebanese people — the Druze and Shi'ite masses — were able to defeat the U.S., NATO and Phalangist forces and are now on their way to defeat the Israeli forces. A small people numbering in the thousands were able to triumph. Is it not more worthwhile than an ancient and great people like the Egyptian people with all their historic and cultural assets should tear up the agreement of shame — the Camp David agreement?

Brothers, this unionist march by the Egyptian masses in Libya is a natural response to the beginning of the historic awakening shaped by the Lebanese national forces in alliance with the new masses in Syria, the Palestinian revolution and [words indistinct]. This creates a commitment and responsibility for the Egyptian masses. I hope that this spontaneous pro-unity march [sentence not completed].

You went out today of your own free will. You were motivated by your conscience. You have naturally responded to the awakening made by the Arab masses in a part of the Arab homeland, which is Lebanon. This awakening will extend from Bahrain to Morocco. It is natural that the Egyptian masses are the first to respond to this historic awakening.

We, the masses in Libya, and we, the revolutionaries in Libya, have a special responsibility to support the Egyptian masses and to enable them to get rid of the Camp David shackles, kick out the Zionists and [words indistinct]. We shall courageously shoulder our responsibility toward our masses in Egypt.

Whether from a national, or pan-Arab or a purely Nasirite standpoint, we the unionist revolutionaries in Libya and the masses in Libya are concerned more than the other Arab masses in helping the Egyptian masses liberate themselves from Camp David. The Egyptian masses are shackled, crushed and [word indistinct]. They are also (?tied) by central security, the intelligence service, exploiters [passage indistinct] The police repression that the Egyptian masses are living under and the fact that they are being manipulated prevent them from thinking about Egypt's future and role.

Brothers, recently the Muslim Iranian people suffered from the most severe forms of oppression and injustice under the rule of the Savak, the shah and the CIA. A Savak agent was assigned to spy on every three families. Recently, police repression and the CIA used to protect [words indistinct]. The masses, however, in Iran and [words indistinct] revolted. The masses in Nicaragua

revolted against Somoza. Thus, the Egyptian masses and the Arab masses [passage indistinct].

After that, the national and unionist forces — particularly in Libya and Syria — the Arab masses in Lebanon and the Arab progressive forces will turn to wage a battle [words indistinct] to liberate Egypt. The liberation of Egypt is an essential and vital issue. We must make all sacrifices and take all risks. Egypt's return is a national, pan-Arab, unionist and (?religious) responsibility. [passage indistinct]

All the potential of the Libyan people, army and blood are for the liberation of Egypt and for standing by [words indistinct] in Egypt to liberate Egypt. [applause] Brothers, we are (?confident) that the Egyptian people and masses will liberate themselves so that Egypt will again lead the Arab nation [words indistinct]. The time factor, however, is important.

There are Libyans now fighting in fronts in Salvador and in Nicaragua [words indistinct]. The small Libyan Arab people are fighting in three continents for the sake of the revolution and tide of the masses. [words indistinct] The Libyans have managed to fight on a front extending from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Syria and Chad, to South Africa. Why? For the sake of the revolution of the masses. [passage indistinct]

JANA: Goukouni Blames French for Plane Explosion
LD132023 Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Bardai, Jumada Thani 8, March 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The president of the Chadian Transitional Unity Government in Chad [as received], Goukouni Oueddei, accused the French military circles in Ndjamena of being behind the explosion of the French DC-8 plane in Ndjamena airport last Saturday.

In a statement to the correspondent of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, he said that the French military circles in Chad aimed, through the bombing operation, to continue its war and support for the renegade Hissein Habre against the Chadian people. He emphasized that this kind of operation falls within the goals of French Government and the rebellious Hissein Habre, who are standing in the way of any peaceful solution to the Chadian problem.

President Goukouni refuted the claims of Habre's clique in Ndjamena of linking the Jamahiriyah with the explosion, adding that the Jamahiriyah has no connections or involvement with this operation, nor the Chadian Transitional Government which is leading a long struggle to liberate the Chadian territory for achieving peace, equality and legitimacy in Chad. He confirmed that these troops never resort to the use of terrorism as a way of struggle. He added that these forces are not against the French or any other people, but are fighting to liberate Chad from the domination of the bloody rule of renegade Habre.

He concluded by emphasizing that the Chadian people are determined to fight those who aim to support Habre and impose him upon the Chadian people.

Chadians Establish Basic People's Congress

LD142222 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Out of their belief in the immortal human dictates of the third universal theory, and in consolidation of the people's direct and democratic authority, the popular Chadian masses in the area of Gao have set up a Basic People's Congress Secretariat.

The masses selected 'Isa al-Mashi secretary general of the Basic People's Congress, and Ibrahim Dadi as assistant secretary.

JANA: Sudan Rebels Attack Numayri Forces in South
LD141203 Tripoli JANA in English 0858 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jumada Thani 10, Mar 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Sudanese revolutionaries attacked last Monday stooge Numayri's forces in southern Sudan, killing 91 soldiers and taking several others as prisoners.

The revolutionaries also captured massive quantities of arms and ammunition.

SUDAN

Southern Leader Meets Numayri, Makes Statement

JN130750 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Mar (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri this morning received Clement Mboro, chairman of the higher committee for following Presidential Decree No 1. This decree is aimed at organizing regional rule in the south.

Clement said in a press statement that the meeting dealt with the contents of the president's speech on national day. He added that the speech included many positive points; namely, appealing to outlaws who carried arms against their homeland to return to the country and abandon acts of sabotage, and promising them complete amnesty.

He also stated: During the meeting, the president explained that he had called on them to hold a dialogue in order to solve domestic problems in Sudan's traditional way. His excellency confirmed that the last word on decentralization in the southern regions is left to the citizens' institutions, pointing out that the measures, which [words indistinct] did not violate the Addis Ababa agreement, and that these measures are stipulated in the constitution.

Mboro also said that President Numayri explained that the enforcement of Islamic law has nothing to do with the Christians, that it is not intended to be imposed on other religions, and that religions continue to exist peacefully side by side in Sudan. His excellency also said that the recent incidents were not due to the enforcement of Islamic law. Clement Mboro also said that the meeting dealt with development in the southern regions, and that the president pledged to provide services for the southern regions by maintaining hospitals, schools, roads and other facilities after he receives plans from the governors of these regions.

Mboro announced in his statement that the president asked him to confirm that Sudan did not ask the United States to send offensive weapons; it asked the United States to send the aid that was approved 3 years ago. The president also said that the first vice president's visit to the United States was aimed at discussing the aid that the United States as a friendly country had agreed to send to Sudan, pointing out that his excellency stressed his concern about finding peaceful solutions to the domestic problems.

TUNISIA

Former Minister Guiga To Be Tried for Treason

LD131511 Kuwait KUNA in English 1401 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, March 13 (KUNA) — Tunisia's former interior minister, Driss Guiga, will be tried before the Supreme Court on charges of high treason connected with last January's nationwide food riots, it was announced here Tuesday.

Justice Minister Mohamed Chaker made the announcement shortly after it was revealed that two members of the armed forces had been executed on high treason charges and new appointments had been made in the leadership of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party. The minister said that President Habib Bourguiba, who had sacked Guiga after the riots, had ordered the treason trial on the basis of a report on the incidents submitted by a specially-constituted committee of inquiry.

The treason charges seem to focus on a power struggle between Guiga and Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, who took over the interior portfolio after Guiga's dismissal.

At the height of the riots in the capital on January 3, Guiga is accused of having sent the country's National Guard commander, Minister of State for Interior Affairs Amer Ghudair, to Mzali to inform him that he had to step down "if he wanted to avoid being removed by force." In January, it was reported that the rioters, whose protest was sparked off by a removal of government bread subsidies, had repeatedly demanded Mzali's resignation. But Bourguiba sided with his prime minister after the incident, sacking Guiga and reinstating the bread subsidy to calm the riots after scores of people had been killed and martial law had been imposed.

No trial date was set by the justice minister, but he said necessary procedures had been begun to involve the Supreme Court in the

process. Earlier, the daily *AS-SABAH* had reported that judicial proceedings would be taken against several of Guiga's associates, whose names were not revealed.

The former interior minister left Tunisia after his dismissal for Paris and London. He is currently staying with his family in the American state of Florida, reportedly as the guest of a Saudi family with "shaky" relations with the Kingdom's royal family.

Earlier, the Tunisian Defense Ministry had announced the execution on treason charges of two members of the Armed Forces, whose ranks were not given. The announcement said the soldiers had passed on secret information to a foreign embassy, but no link was drawn to the January riots or the treason charge levelled against the former minister.

WESTERN SAHARA

Defense Minister Reportedly Killed in Battle

LD141545 Kuwait KUNA in English 1437 GMT 14 Mr 84

[Text] Rabat, March 14 (KUNA) — Press reports here claimed that the defense minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, Brahim Chali Ould Mostefa, has died in recent battles near Amgala.

The reports said that the minister was killed in the combing operations launched by the Moroccan forces in the region. The area was the scene of fierce fighting during the Moroccan forces' construction of the second defense line facing the Mauritanian borders late last December.

The Polisario Front, fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara from Morocco, had formed the SDAR and sought recognition, which it succeeded in gaining only on a narrow scale.

Further Report

PM141258 Paris LE FIGARO in French 12 Mar 84 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Death of Polisario Defense Minister"]

[Text] During the last two major battles on the Moroccan "berm" being built along the Mauritanian border, at Erredi and Lahircha on 30 and 31 December 1983, a body was found bearing the papers of and resembling Polisario Defense Minister Brahim Ghali. It has now been confirmed that it was the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic's number two man who died in one of those engagements.

ETHIOPIA

Soviet Planning Committee Delegation Ends Visit
EA142114 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
 1700 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Lakhtin, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee, this morning returned home at the end of his working tour to Socialist Ethiopia. During his stay in Addis Ababa at the head of a Soviet delegation, Comrade Lakhtin has visited various development activities being carried out by Socialist Ethiopia. He also held discussions with Ethiopian authorities on future joint economic and trade activities between the two countries. In a statement prior to his departure for Moscow, Comrade Lakhtin pointed out that during his visit he has seen developments that will enable Ethiopia and the Soviet Union to carry out long-term economic and cooperative activities.

Eritrean Factions To Promote Jidda Unity Accord
PM141249 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
 10-16 Mar 84 p 8

["From *AL-MAJALLAH* correspondents' dispatches"]

[Text] *AL-MAJALLAH* has learned that the leaders of the Eritrean factions which signed the Jidda agreement pertaining to the unity of the Eritrean revolution's forces have met in an Arab capital in the presence of representatives of the three states which are trying to promote Eritrean unity. A source close to the meeting has told *AL-MAJALLAH* that it was agreed to implement all provisions of the Jidda agreement and to make practical arrangements to begin its implementation.

SOMALIA

Ethiopian Attack in Galguduud 'Met, Repulsed'
EA141746 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
 1700 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] A report we received today from the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Defense Ministry says that this morning the Abyssinian forces launched an unprovoked attack on the outskirts of Balamalle in Galguduud region.

The unprovoked aggression was courageously met and repulsed by the SDR Armed Forces. They crushed the enemy and inflicted major casualties in men, materiel and technical [phrase in English], while at the same time capturing soldiers taken as prisoners and a very large quantity of military hardware.

'Bitter Fighting' in Northern, Central Regions
EA142254 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali
 to Somalia 1800 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Bitter fighting is taking place between the fighters of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali opposition forces, supported by members of the general public and the

loyalist troops of Siad Barre's regime in Togdheer region, northern Somalia.

The engagement between the fighters of the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces and the Mogadishu regime started on 8 March at (Kated) and (Wadamo) villages where the forces of the terror regime of Mogadishu killed seven civilians.

The reports add that members of the general public went on the rampage against the regime and completely cut the major road connecting Mogadishu and Burao, the capital of Togdheer region. The closure of the road created more tension, and the general public living in and around (Ainab) and (Wadamo) villages burned two vehicles belonging to the terror regime of Mogadishu.

The reports further say that in another encounter between the intrepid fighters of the SNM and the loyalist troops of Siad Barre at (Belisintir), 35 soldiers were killed and over 75 others wounded. The forces of the Mogadishu regime lost a large quantity of arms. The reports add that the SNM fighters are now in full control and are administering the town of Baledid and its outskirts.

Other reports reaching us from the battle zones say that in fighting that took place at (Dogoshe) 30 enemy soldiers were slaughtered and 11 others wounded. The report adds that one tank and one APC vehicle belonging to the loyalist troops of Siad Barre were burned. The fighting going in those areas resulted in the death of 23 other soldiers belonging to Siad's forces and 41 wounded.

The towns in the hands of the SNM forces are Baledid, (Ibidley), (Dogoshe) and (Riya Hiro). The fighting going on in Togdheer region, northern Somalia, has now reached the regional capital of Burao. The reports reaching Radio Halgan state that light casualties have been inflicted on the SNM forces.

Fighters of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces, killed 35 soldiers of General Barre's loyalist troops stationed at Matabaan and (Guriyaawl), in the Hiran region [central Somalia]. On 13 March at 1600 fighting took place between units of the 15th (Gorod) Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces and loyalist troops of Siad Barre.

The militia of Siad Barre lost two APC vehicles and one field gun. One tank and the ammunition store burned down.

On the DFSS side, no casualties were suffered whatsoever.

TANZANIA

Foreign Minister Comments on Nyerere-Machel Talks
EA141201 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
 0400 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Tanzania has reiterated its understanding and sympathy for the circumstances which led Mozambique to adopt the position it has taken in respect to negotiations and agreement with the racist South African regime.

Speaking to newsmen after talks between the Tanzanian and Mozambique delegations, led by Presidents Nyerere and Samora Machel respectively, Tanzania's foreign minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, recalled the visit last Saturday and Sunday by President Samora to Tanzania and stated that the current visit by mwalimu was a follow-up to the visit.

The minister explained that during his visit to Tanzania, President Samora Machel had given an in-depth briefing to mwalimu and the situation in southern Africa and Mozambique [sentence as heard]. After President Machel's departure, the Central Committee of CCM [Chama Cha Mapinduzi] discussed Ndugu Samora's brief visit and decided that mwalimu should go to Maputo to understand more developments in person, and deliver in person the sentiments of understanding and solidarity to the Frelimo Party and the Mozambique people.

The minister also stated the importance of consolidating the stability of Mozambique and other frontline states. He said such stability reinforces the struggle for freedom in southern Africa.

Asked to comment on speculations emanating from some news agencies that Mwalimu Nyerere was expected to witness the signing of the Mozambique-South African agreement, he said the issue was not on the agenda during the talks.

Members of the Central Committee who accompanied President Nyerere were Ndugu Kingunge Ngombale-Mwiru, Ndugu Ali Mzee Ali, and Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim.

Agreement Reached With EAC Creditors in Paris

EA131216 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The minister for finance, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, said here yesterday that Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda had agreed in principle with the creditors of the East African Community [EAC] on a repayment formula for debts of the defunct community.

Ndugu Msuya was being interviewed by the party newspaper *UHURU* on his return to Dar es Salaam from Paris, where he attended a meeting between member countries of the defunct East African Community and representatives of the creditors, who included the World Bank, West Germany, Britain, Canada and Zambia.

Under the agreement, credit arrangements between the creditors and the East African Community will be abrogated in order to enter into new agreements between the creditors and individual states controlling the community at the time it collapsed in 1977. Ndugu Msuya said that other meetings will be held between representatives of Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, and that indi-

vidual creditors will meet with each of the three East African countries. After the consultations, ministers from the three East African countries will meet to finalize plans for sharing the assets to be presented to their respective heads of state.

The Paris agreement is another step toward settling the problem of sharing the assets and liabilities of the East African Community as directed by Presidents Nyerere, Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, and Milton Obote of Uganda, during their summit on 16 November last year in Arusha. The three countries have already reached agreement on the sharing of assets and liabilities, under which the countries will compensate each other according to the amount of community assets each country holds in comparison to the others.

The formula for the share-out is in accordance with the one proposed by the Swiss mediator, Dr Victor Umbricht, on assets and liabilities of the East African community. Under the formula Kenya holds 42 percent of the equity shares, Tanzania 32 percent, and Uganda 26 percent. This formula is accepted by the heads of the three countries.

UGANDA

Industrial Production Increase Due to Obote Approach

EA141202 Kampala KNA in English 0800 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Kampala March 14 — Uganda's industries are now operating at 40 percent of their capacity as opposed to some 30 percent by the end of 1982 and 15 percent of their installed capacity when the Obote regime assumed power in the country. According to reports from the Uganda capital reaching the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, industrial production in the past three years has increased steadily.

Reports indicate that the industrial share of the country's GDP has increased by 14.3 percent in the 1981-82 fiscal year and another 17 percent in 1982-83. Production of cement went up from 8,052 tons in 1981 to 22,131 tons in 1983, beer from 6.4 million litres to 14.7 million litres, cigarettes from 231 million to 639 million and corrugated iron sheets from 355 tons to 5,973 tons.

The industrial revival, reports say, is attributed to Dr Obote's adoption of a realistic approach to rehabilitate some key industries and to attract investment in both private and nationally-owned enterprises.

The government however has to tackle the under-capacity problem in some industries in its efforts to bring about full recovery. There is inadequacy of funds and lack of skilled manpower for some other industries, reports noted.

CAMEROON

Biya Commutes Death Sentence of Ahidjo, Others
AB142320 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Speech to the nation by President Paul Biya on 14 March 1984 in Yaounde — live or recorded]

[Text] Cameroonian countrymen and women, on 22 August 1983, I had the painful task of announcing to you on this very national radio station the discovery of a great plot against the security of the state and at the same time the measures I had taken in order to safeguard the institutions in accordance with the sacred obligations invested in me by the Constitution.

The trial of the authors of the plot that took place last month, which took place under perfectly legal conditions and with irreproachable regularity, helped to provide evidence of the realities of this plot and made known the serious perils to which the Republic would have been exposed if this plot had succeeded. A just sentence was passed by the tribunal in all autonomy, thus demonstrating that Cameroon can be proud of its legal institutions.

Everybody is equal before the law, and no one has the right to put the collective security into peril through ambition or personal interests despite whatever services he may have previously rendered to the nation. But beyond justice, there is the supreme interest of the state and the moral values of respect for life, of humanity and magnanimity which constitute the greatness of man. In the name of this interest and of these values, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I have decided, by virtue of the powers conferred on me by the constitution, to commute to detention the death sentences passed by the military tribunal of Yaounde and to stop all judicial enquiry and prosecution currently going on in regard to this painful affair.

From this painful episode in the political life of our country, history will always remember that the president of the Republic, although he had all the legal means at his disposal to implement the fair sentence passed by the tribunal, preferred to grant

clemency in the supreme interest of the nation and in the interest of loyalty, which are higher moral values. I therefore call on the Cameroonian people, who since 6 November 1982 have always demonstrated solid proof of their political maturity, to understand, accept, and adopt this decision, and to continue in peace, dignity, and harmony their forward march on the path of economic, social, and cultural progress for our country.

Long live Cameroon!

ZAIRE

Mobutu, Portugal's Eanes Remarks at Banquet Noted
AB141710 Dakar PANA in French 1135 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 14 Mar (AZAP/PANA) — Zairian President Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko has expressed the wish to see Portuguese-Zairian cooperation broadened in the fields of agriculture, agro-industries, food production, fisheries, and small-scale industry.

During a banquet offered on Tuesday in honor of Portuguese head of state General Antonio Ramalho Eanes, who is on a 3-day official visit to Zaire, President Mobutu stated that the middle-level technology that Portugal possesses is well adapted to the present level of development in Zaire, which continues to progressively concern itself with the vital sectors.

Field Marshal Mobutu stated that Portugal's human assistance to Zaire's economic policy, which is geared toward encouraging private initiative, will be of great use; and in this regard he rendered homage to the contribution made toward the nation's economic development by Portuguese nationals who have been in Zaire for many years now.

Replying to the toast, Portuguese head of state Gen Eanes affirmed that the establishment of a new kind of relations between Europe and Africa will allow these continents to successfully face the world economic crisis, especially through the development of trade whose goal will be to combat dependence and misery.

GHANA

'Bitter Lesson' of Grenada Reviewed on Anniversary
AB141750 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT
14 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, 13 March, would have been the fifth anniversary of the Grenadian revolution, a revolution which was a jewel of hope to so many in the Third World. It would also have seen the commissioning of the new international airport at Point Salines. This was a project constructed with Canadian and British aid and Cuban technical expertise that became a subject of so much deliberate misinformation and artificial controversy.

On 13 March 1979, the New Jewel Movement [NJM] overthrew the corrupt and repressive regime of Sir Eric Gairy. The movement had promised food, decent housing, and health for all Grenadians regardless of their political opinions. From March 1973 when it was formed, the New Jewel Movement had been very much involved in the struggle for the people for improved political and social conditions and was increasingly seen as the only alternative to Gairy and the farcical democracy that was practiced.

The overthrow of Gairy's regime preempted an order for the liquidation of the leadership of the movement. It was an action which had mass support, because the movement had identified itself with popular struggle. The New Jewel Movement proceeded to put its program into effect. In its foreign relations, it pursued a policy of nonalignment and established very close relations with Cuba. Its friendship with Cuba earned it the wrath of the United States.

Under the leadership of Morris Bishop and the movement, the Grenadians attained a very impressive growth rate of 5.5 percent in 1982. Within the same period, the U.S. economy only grew by 1.75 percent. The Center for Popular Education and the National In-Service Teachers Education Program were established to eradicate illiteracy and improve the quality of teaching. Health facilities were improved and a housing repair program was initiated to enable workers to repair their rundown houses. Popular democracy was a reality, with mass organizations involved in discussing and production of the national budget.

Like all revolutions, the Grenadian revolution had its enemy. At every opportunity, the leadership explained to the people the nature of the enemy: an international system organized to ensure the continuing exploitation, domination, and raid [as heard] of Third World countries and people — imperialism. The people were also mobilized in the militia to defend the revolution.

In the early months of 1983, Grenada warned the international community of plans by the United States to invade the country. A mock invasion had been held in August 1981 on the island of Biaki off Puerto Rico.

In the latter part of 1983, a conflict erupted within the leadership of the New Jewel Movement. A faction led by the deputy prime

minister took over the party and the military in the face of massive popular disapproval. On 19 October, Morris Bishop and five other leaders of the NJM were killed by the military. The revolution had lost the masses, and conditions were created for the American invasion of 25 October 1983, an action which has been condemned by the international community.

The Grenadian tragedy demonstrated imperialism's determination to destroy symbols. Grenada showed how differences among comrades must not be carried to the extent of destroying revolution and the importance of the involvement of the mass of the people in discussion of problems concerning leadership to avoid factionalism and unwarranted antagonism. Grenada showed how a revolutionary movement which when it was divorced from the people could no longer defend itself. Grenada remains a bitter lesson to all genuine revolutions.

GUINEA-BISSAU

More on Removal of Saude Maria From Government Posts

Sacked for 'Planning Coup'
AB141907 Paris AFP in English 1859 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Bissau, March 14 (AFP) — The former prime minister of Guinea-Bissau, Victor Saude Maria, was removed from the post on Saturday because he had been planning a coup d'etat, President Joao Bernardo Vieira said today.

The president was speaking at a mass rally at the town of Contouboel. Earlier today reliable sources said Mr Saude Maria had been put under house arrest here.

Placed Under House Arrest
AB141835 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Bissau, March 14 (AFP) — The former prime minister of Guinea-Bissau, Victor Saude Maria, who was removed from the post on Saturday, has been put under house arrest here, reliable sources said today.

According to unconfirmed rumours, meanwhile, the former premier's wife has been arrested for protesting against his sacking. Diplomatic sources here believe Saude Maria was sacked not only because of differences of opinion with President Joao Bernardo Vieira over a proposed new constitution, which provides for abolition of the post of prime minister. According to the sources, several members of the government, mostly military men, felt he had abused his position and betrayed political ambitions in the run-up to legislative elections due next month.

After the announcement of Mr Saude Maria's removal as prime minister, President Vieira made a general public attack on political ambitions, intrigues and tribalism.

The president last night said that Mr Saude Maria had also been dismissed as vice-president of the Revolutionary Council and of the National Security Council.

He told a meeting of the National Security Council that Rural Development Minister Paulo Correia would take over as vice-president of the Revolutionary Council.

New Vice President Named

AB141348 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Bissau, March 14 (AFP) — Victor Saude Maria, the former prime minister of Guinea-Bissau sacked on Saturday, has also been dismissed as vice president of Revolutionary Council and of the National Security Council, President Joao Bernardo Vieira said here.

Saturday's announcement said Mr. Saude Maria would retain his other political posts. But President Vieira told a meeting of the National Security Council last night that the "serious reasons" which led to Mr. Saude Maria's dismissal as prime minister were incompatible with his carrying on his other duties. The president gave no other details.

Mr. Saude Maria's dismissal is thought due to differences of opinion with the president, especially over the new constitution bill whose proposals include the abolition of the post of prime minister.

President Vieira also told last night's meeting that Rural Development Minister Paulo Correia would take over the job of vice president of the Revolutionary Council.

Saude Maria Reportedly Confesses

LD142357 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 2100 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau said today that former Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria, dismissed from his post last Saturday [10 March], was plotting against the security of state.

The head of state added that Saude Maria tried to mobilize some of his comrades, including Defense Minister Iafai Camara himself. The approached comrades, however, denounced the prime minister's plotting activities. Summoned by the president of the Republic, Saude Maria ended by confessing to Bernardo Vieira the activities in which he had engaged. All this was disclosed today by President Bernardo Vieira at a rally on Contuboeil, eastern Guinea-Bissau.

The wife of the former Prime Minister, Maria Augusta Furtado, has been detained for illegal activities carried out over the last few days, including contacts with foreign embassies aimed at pressing them to intervene in the events under way in Guinea-Bissau, Joao Bernardo Vieira added.

That was the first time that the head of state explained in detail the serious reasons which led him to remove Saude Maria from the posts of prime minister, vice president of the Council of the Revolution and vice president of the National Security Council.

NIGERIA

Official Death Toll for Rioting in Yola Set at 721

AB141815 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 14 (AFP) — The official death toll in the recent week of religious violence in Yola, capital of Nigeria's northeastern Gongola state, has been put at 721.

The state's acting military governor, Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Iweze, also said that over 100,000 people were displaced by the disturbances, which erupted on February 27 and involved the Maitatsine Moslem sect. Fanatics of the sect held out against police and were only finally routed after a military operation lasting about 45 hours.

Unofficial figures for the toll would make the Yola violence the worst of its kind in Nigeria since violence in the northern town of Kano in 1980 involving the same sect, when over 4,000 people died.

Mortuary sources at Yola hospital said 1,800 died, while a municipal authority official said 1,128 bodies were handled. [Words indistinct] has since donated one million naira (1.3 million dollars) to victims of the violence throughout the state, and individuals as well as organisations have given aid. A probe has been ordered into the Yola violence.

Security precautions have also been stepped up in Nigeria's predominantly Moslem northern states to forestall a possible spread of influence by the unorthodox sect. Open-air religious rallies have been banned in some states by the military authorities, and in a number of states official permits have been made mandatory for other religious activities.

In Gongola, "abusive" records, cassettes and tapes, and their playing over loudspeakers, radio and television, have been banned, as have so-called prayer houses, and movements by pupils of Koranic schools has been prohibited.

Announcing these orders, the state governor, Major-General Muhammadu Jega, warned that provision of accommodation to strangers, particularly foreigners, should be reported to the authorities. He called for a "complete overhaul" of Nigeria's security machinery, saying that unless this was done, effective eradication of religious fanaticism would continue to elude the government. The governor warned a government guarantee of freedom of worship should not be misconstrued as a licence for "a few [words indistinct] the people to destruction".

Meanwhile, Nigerian head of state Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, in an apparent reference to the violence, has warned that the government will act against any cases of "religious intolerance or the preaching of oblique sermons capable of inciting the public to cause any breach of the peace anywhere in the country".

Gambari: 'No Intention' of Cutting Oil Prices*AB141850 Lagos International Service in English
1630 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] Nigeria says she has no intention to cut her oil prices to raise money in the short term. External Affairs Minister Dr Ibrahim Gambari stated this in Washington while answering questions from newsmen. The Nigerian minister, who is in the United States for an international conference on defense (?issues), said Nigeria would abide by OPEC agreements as well as repay her debts. He said that it was in the country's long-term interest to keep within OPEC pricing policies in repaying her short- and long-term debts. Dr Gambari criticized the conditions of the IMF for obtaining refinancing help.

Upper Volta's Compaore Brings Message to Buhari*AB150910 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] Bearing a personal message from the chairman of the National Council of the Revolution, Captain Thomas Sankara, to Nigerian head of state Major General Muhammadu Buhari, Captain Blaise Compaore, minister delegate to the Presidency of the Republic, left Ouagadougou this morning on a short visit to Lagos.

On his arrival at the federal capital at 1115, Capt Blaise Compaore and members of his delegation were welcomed at the Murtala Muhammad International Airport by Group Captain Samson Omerua, member of the Supreme Military Council and minister of information and sports. Minister of State Capt Blaise Compaore was taken by helicopter to Dodan Barracks, the principal military barracks of the federal capital and seat of the military government.

Welcomed on leaving the helicopter by Colonel Gidi, chief of General Staff of the Nigerian Army [name and title as heard], Capt Thomas Sankara's envoy was immediately received by Maj Gen Buhari, the Nigerian head of state. After he was informed of the contents of the message from his Upper Voltan counterpart, Gen Buhari talked at length with Capt Blaise Compaore in a fraternal manner.

Before leaving Lagos, the minister delegate to the Presidency of the Republic gave a press conference at the VIP lounge of the Murtala Muhammad Airport. The press conference quickly turned into a long conversation with the Nigerian journalists, who were particularly attentive and demanding. The questions mainly centered on the Upper Voltan experience and the revolutionary process launched on 4 August, the revolutionary defense committees, and the people's revolutionary tribunals.

Concerning Upper Volta's participation in the upcoming OAU summit, Capt Blaise Compaore said that our country will attend the Conakry summit if the principles of the OAU Charter are respected. He reaffirmed that henceforth there will be no question of Upper Volta participating in any OAU summit without the participation of the SDAR, which, it is recalled, has been formally recognized by 28 out of the 51 member states of the OAU.

Buhari Reaffirms Ties*AB150920 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, says the Federal Military Government (FMG) appreciates the support and solidarity it has been receiving from other African countries. Gen Buhari stated this today at Dodan Barracks while receiving a special message from the Upper Voltan leader, Captain Thomas Sankara. He reaffirmed Nigeria's readiness to assist sister African countries to promote regional cooperation.

In the message, the Upper Voltan leader said that the struggle being waged by the present administration in Nigeria was similar to the one going on in Upper Volta. Capt Sankara stressed the need for African nations to cooperate, since those outside the continent could not appreciate the problems and aspirations of Africa.

He invited the FMG to send a delegation to Upper Volta to explore areas of common interest which could be developed for the benefit of the two countries.

The leader of the delegation, Captain Blaise Compaore, who is also the second in command on the National Council of the Revolution in Upper Volta, said that his country was ready to continue dialogue on major issues with Nigeria.

UK Duty To Return Political 'Fugitives' Stressed*AB151055 Lagos International Service in English
0930 GMT 15 Mar 84*

["Viewpoint"]

[Text] When [name indistinct], a former Nigerian politician told the world over the British Broadcasting Corporation that he and other fugitives were organizing a jihad against their fatherland, Nigerians as well as the British public expressed concern about the presence in the United Kingdom of these Nigerian fugitives. It was believed that the British Government has a duty to regulate the activities of the fugitives. In fact, because of the lukewarm attitude of the British Government to the matter, the British Labor Party spokesman for European affairs, (John Holt), raised the issue in Parliament. It seems nothing has been done in this regard by the British authorities, for reports last weekend indicated that the fugitives have actually started recruiting mercenaries, using Britain as their base.

Although the report made it clear that no evidence linking the British Government to the plot has been established, the fact that the fugitives are using British territory as the planning base for their criminal intention underscores the fact that the authorities in the United Kingdom have the bounden duty to place these fleeing Nigerians under watchful eyes. To do otherwise is to allow these men to ruin the good relationship existing between the two countries.

International law and usages demand that those who flee their country to another one must not be allowed to take advantage of the hospitality extended to them to embark on unwholesome

activities against their fatherland. Besides, the political, diplomatic, and other ties between Nigeria and Britain make it obligatory on the United Kingdom Government to check the activities of the fugitives. It should be made absolutely clear here that these men, who are reportedly using British territory to plot against Nigeria, are in Britain not as refugees but strictly as fugitives. Most of them have been declared wanted at home to face charges for their involvement in the looting of the national treasury while in office. It is part of this loot that they are now using to sponsor the recruitment of mercenaries.

The military authorities in Nigeria have guaranteed an absolutely fair trial. As (John Holt) remarked in Parliament, Britain has the duty to collaborate with Nigeria in this matter; and this, indeed, will not be the first time that the issue of fugitives has been satisfactorily resolved between Nigeria and Britain. It happened in the early sixties, when a wanted Nigerian politician escaped to Britain but was later returned home with the cooperation of British authorities. This time, Britain is not expected to shirk her responsibility as far as the present fugitives are concerned, more so as they are now reported to be using Britain as a base to plot against their fatherland.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Joint Communique With Portugal Hails RSA Accords
LD131823 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese
 1600 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the republic, General Ramalho Eanes, today arrived in Kinshasa on a 2-day official visit to Zaire, thus reciprocating President Mobutu's visit to Portugal last December. Several cooperation agreements were then signed between the two countries, and their implementation will now be discussed in Kinshasa.

Before General Eanes' departure to Kinshasa, a joint communique was released this morning in Sao Tome, stating that Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe hailed the initiatives of Angola and Mozambique which enabled the establishment of a dialogue with Pretoria. The communique insists on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 aimed at Namibia's independence, and condemns the apartheid system in South Africa.

The establishment of military cooperation between Portugal and Sao Tome was, on the other hand, discussed at the talks between General Ramalho Eanes and Pinto da Costa, the Portuguese president disclosed. General Ramalho Eanes, who was speaking at a news conference, underlined that this matter will be discussed in depth only when the Portuguese defense minister, Mota Pinto, visits Sao Tome shortly.

SENEGAL

Condition Cited for Restoring Relations With Israel
AB142120 Lagos International Service in English
 1630 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Senegal says she will not restore diplomatic relations with Israel unless the rights of the Palestinians are restored. A special envoy from President Abdou Diouf, Mr Mustafa Sese, said in Jordan that Senegal was the first African country to grant the PLO an ambassadorial representative. Mr Sese, who was in Amman to convey a message from President Diouf to King Husayn of Jordan, [passage indistinct]. He spoke of the need for an Afro-Arab solidarity conference aimed at cementing friendship among Africans and Arabs.

UPPER VOLTA

DPRK Provides Construction, Agricultural Equipment
AB141550 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
 1300 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The DPRK this morning offered our country a consignment of materials for the construction of some important projects. It consists of 700 tons of cement, 72 tons of iron rods, and about 13 tons of agricultural equipment. The cement and iron rods will be used in the construction of the people's theaters in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, the national museum in Ouagadougou, and a monument in Revolutionary Square. The agricultural equipment will be used to set up an experimental farm at Loumbila. Three groups of Korean technicians will give assistance to the Upper Voltans on the different projects.

In his speech, the DPRK ambassador to Upper Volta, Pak Kye-yol, expressed his joy in delivering the consignment and his satisfaction with the success of the Upper Voltan revolution against imperialists and neocolonialists. He thanked the Upper Voltan people for their support for the just struggle of the Korean people toward its independent and peaceful reunification.

Speaking in his turn, Philippe Ouedraogo, minister of equipment and communications, first of all praised the permanent and loyal cooperation and the spirit of solidarity that links our two peoples. He then stressed the importance that the National Council of the Revolution attaches to culture, which is a means of mobilizing the people for important objectives. He assured the people of Korea of the friendship and solidarity of the Upper Voltan people, which is due to the similarity of the situation of our two peoples, who are both threatened by imperialism. In conclusion, he said that the ardor of the militants of the Upper Voltan revolution at the construction sites will express not only their constant determination to build Upper Volta by themselves, but also their concern to demonstrate to the Korean people our awareness of the sacrifices they have made by offering us this consignment. We must also point out that another consignment of cement is expected in May. This will amount to 1,500 tons of cement in all.

Considerable Progress Seen in Cahora Bassa Talks*MB141632 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] South Africa, Mozambique, and Portugal have made considerable progress on agreement on the last remaining problems surrounding the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme. In a joint statement released soon after the trilateral talks in Cape Town, the three parties say their delegations have reached understanding on the main principles involved, and they will now report to their respective governments. They say provisional texts of the relevant agreements have been drafted and will be studied by their governments. Further trilateral discussions between the parties are foreseen to finalize the texts.

At a brief news conference after the talks, the South African deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, said he expected a final agreement on electricity supply from Cahora Bassa to be signed between the respective governments before winter sets in.

Nel Envisages Future Ventures*MB150846 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, says a successful undertaking between South Africa and Mozambique on the use of the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme could lead to further cooperative projects between the countries of southern Africa.

Mr Nel, who headed the South African delegation during yesterday's talks with Mozambique and Portugal in Cape Town, said negotiations held so far indicated that agreements were possible between South Africa and her neighboring countries. He said he expected the Cahora Bassa agreement to be concluded before winter set in. However, this would depend on further trilateral talks.

The Mozambican leader at yesterday's talks, Mr Antonio Branco, said South Africa and Mozambique were discussing the establishment of a joint security force to safeguard electricity supplies from the Cahora Bassa dam in northern Mozambique.

Asked if such a force was being considered to maintain electricity supply lines to South Africa, Mr Branco said this was one of the matters still being discussed by the two countries. He declined to say whether it would form part of the Accord of Nkomati to be signed between the two countries tomorrow. Mr Branco returned to Maputo late yesterday evening.

The head of the Portuguese delegation to yesterday's Cape Town talks, the country's deputy minister of finance, Mr Antonio de Almeida, is remaining behind to attend tomorrow's signing of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique. Our parliamentary staff reports that he's been invited to attend the ceremony by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha.

ANGOLA**Air Force Commander Detained; Coup Rumors Floated***AB151028 Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] Lisbon, Mar 15 (AFP) — The Angolan Air Force commander, Colonel Iko Carreira, was held for three hours recently on suspicion of involvement in diamond trafficking, the weekly *TEMPO* reported today.

Quoting informed Angolans who had arrived in Lisbon, *TEMPO* said that Colonel Carreira had threatened Minister of Defence Pedro Maria Tonha that he would order reprisals by the Air Force if he were not released. The reprisals could take the form of bombing certain strategic areas of Luanda, including Defence Headquarters, Colonel Carreira reportedly warned.

TEMPO said that President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos had not been told in advance of the arrest of the Air Force chief, formerly one of his military advisers, and had to exert his full power to get him freed.

The weekly also said that rumors of a planned coup were circulating in Luanda. It was apparently aimed at removing more moderate members of the government, including Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge, Industry Minister Bento Rebeiro and senior ruling party official Lucio Lara.

Army Reportedly Destroys Main UNITA Base in Huambo*MB141951 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] The main base of the UNITA criminal gang, situated in the area it calls (?Ponta Negra), Huambo, was recently destroyed by the Angolan National Army during offensive operations in Luimbale. (?Seven) UNITA criminals were killed in these operations and large quantities of materiel and military equipment were captured. (?Seven) peasants who had been abducted from their homes were freed from the puppets' claws.

It will be recalled that in Uige Province over the past few days the Angolan combatants have annihilated (?15) UNITA criminals during offensive operations in that province, which enabled large quantities of arms and ammunition to be captured.

In Moxico, the residents have identified a toxic product used by the UNITA criminals to kill people, which has an external appearance similar to cooking fat, and is distributed to the civilians by the puppets as a simple gift.

BOTSWANA**Opposition Leaders Discuss Elections, Ties to RSA***MB141414 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1125 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] The leader of the Botswana Liberal Party, Mr Martin Chakalisa, has said that Botswana were not ready for elections

in 1965, which saw Botswana becoming an independent state. He said as such he does not respect the outcome of the 1965 elections. He noted that the ruling Botswana Democratic Party [BDP] appeared to be an excellent party because it kept one cabinet for 17 years, and because of this it was not easy for people to think of voting it out of power. In addition, he alleged, the BDP used chiefs to win elections, but later passed undemocratic laws against them.

Mr Chakalisa was speaking last night at the University of Botswana among other party leaders in a panel discussion organized by the minister of information and propaganda of the Students' Representative Council of the University. The discussion was arranged to analyze the social, economic, and political situation in Botswana, and to give the parties an opportunity to say what they would offer people if elected into power.

In his submission, the leader of the opposition Botswana Peoples Party, BPP, Dr Mike Maripe, alleged that there can be no political stability when the majority of people live in conditions which pigs would like, while a few live in palaces. He claimed that the BPP was a champion of freedom, and said that it would decentralize local government structures to strengthen councils, if elected into power. On current peace initiatives in southern Africa, Dr Maripe suggested that the president, Dr Quett Masire, should talk to Zimbabwe to stop border incursions into Botswana. This has already been done.

The mayor of Gaborone, Mr (Bakgwatse), representing the ruling BDP, told the audience that new things were going to appear in his party's manifesto for the coming elections. He said if reelected into power, the BDP would ensure sound economic management, high level of income, generating employment, advance in stability in both internal and foreign policies.

On the other hand, the leader of the opposition Botswana Progressive Union, Mr Daniel Kwele, said the political situation in Botswana had no hope for peace. He said the situation as it is could result in Botswana fighting each other. Mr Kenneth Koma of the opposition Botswana National Front said his party's first step would be to terminate Botswana's membership of the Customs Union. He said through the union, Botswana was a neocolony of South Africa. Mr Koma said from there, his government would then protect local industries against sabotage by South African industries.

About 2,000 people attended the discussions, which ended after midnight.

MOZAMBIQUE

Nyerere Expresses Tanzania's Support for RSA Pact
AB141143 Paris AFP in French 0817 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Maputo, 14 Mar (AFP) — President Julius Nyerere expressed in Maputo last Tuesday the "entire" support of Tanzania to Mozambique for its decision to sign a pact of nonaggression with South Africa next Friday.

President Nyerere, accompanied by his minister of foreign affairs, Mr Salim Ahmed Salim, arrived on Tuesday afternoon in Mozambique for a 24-hour visit. He had a 3-hour discussion with President Samora Machel of Mozambique, the Political Bureau of the Frelimo — the party in power — and with the Secretariat of the party and the Central Committee.

During a press conference given before his departure, Mr Salim declared that President Nyerere had come to Maputo "to express his militant solidarity and his support for the position adopted by President Samora Machel." Tanzania, he added, "perfectly understands the circumstances which led the Frelimo to make this decision." "The consolidation of the independence and stability of Mozambique is of prime importance in the struggle in southern Africa for the dignity and freedom of our peoples," the Tanzanian minister said.

Information Minister, France's Lecanuet Assess Talks
MB140932 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] The People's Assembly and a delegation from the French Senate held talks in Maputo today. The talks centered on cooperation between the two countries and on southern Africa's problems. The delegation of the People's Assembly was headed by deputy Jose Luis Cabaco, who is also minister of information. It included, among others, Teodato Hunguana, assembly deputy and second deputy minister of the interior. The French Senate was represented by a delegation headed by Jean Lecanuet, chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Armed Forces Commission. The French delegation arrived yesterday in our country.

At the opening of the talks, both sides expressed a desire for further growth of cooperation relations. Minister Cabaco began his address by welcoming the visitors and said that he believed that the current visit will be productive and useful in fulfilling the objectives which brought the French senators to this part of the world.

[Begin Cabaco recording] In welcoming you, we would also like to note the attention the People's Assembly has been paying to the development of relations at all levels between our two countries, particularly the development of diplomatic and economic relations, which have enhanced a greater reciprocal understanding of our countries. This understanding was firmly expressed by France's prompt humanitarian response in the wake of our natural disasters, and by the formation of the Emergency Committee for Mozambique, led by the wife of the president of the French Republic. That act deeply touched the Mozambican people. Thus, we would like to express our appreciation to this delegation, too. [end recording]

Deputy Jose Luis Cabaco added that he hoped that both sides will benefit from the exchange of views between the delegations. Jean Lecanuet, after expressing France's desire to develop relations with Mozambique, explained the main objectives of his visit to our region.

[Begin Lecanuet recording in French fading to Portuguese translation] The Senate's Commission on Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces, of which I am chairman, chose to visit southern Africa this year. We knew that there were many political, ethnic, and economic and — often sadly — military problems taking place. We came to Mozambique after visiting South Africa so that we could become better acquainted with those problems. We came here hoping to understand the paths to peace in the region. [end recording]

The head of the French delegation also expressed his delegation's wish to meet President Samora Machel. Jean Lecanuet spoke on the present level and status of cooperation between France and developing countries. This afternoon the French delegation was expected to be received by Deputy Prakash Ratilal, governor of the Bank of Mozambique. The delegation of French senators will leave our country tomorrow, after other talks with other Mozambique officials.

Port, Railroad Officials Meet RSA Customers

*MB150602 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Text] A delegation of Mozambique ports and railroad officials is currently on a working visit to South Africa. Our correspondent (Rodrigues Bila) provides the following report:

Having attained its objectives, the delegation of Mozambique ports and railroad officials, which has been in Johannesburg since last Monday, is scheduled to return to Maputo tomorrow. The 5-man delegation, which includes the director of Maputo harbor, is headed by Eng Ferreira Mendes, national director of ports and railroad.

Yesterday morning, (Elidio Diniz), director of Maputo harbor, met with high-ranking officials of the South Africa Transport Services and discussed operational issues of the railroad and ports system linking the harbor with the South African Province of Natal. Yesterday, the Mozambique delegation participated in a business meeting with more than 30 representatives of South African export and import enterprises who are potential clients of Maputo port through Manica Freight Services.

A similar meeting with a number of customers of Maputo harbor through Rennie Shipping took place this morning. On both occasions, the meetings focused on the opportunities and facilities offered by Maputo harbor. For this reason, Maputo harbor officials made a point of persuading the South African customers to increase their traffic through Maputo harbor. The customers again received a detailed explanation of improvements that have been and are still being made to Maputo harbor as well as all facilities for handling cargo. Our correspondent learned that the main issue now is to improve trade. To do that requires mutual study to find joint solutions of problems, creating mutual trust for mutually advantageous business.

Resistance Depicts Zimbabwean Role in Atrocities

*MB150952 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National
Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Station commentary: "Machel's Henchmen Will Be Tried Soon"]

[Excerpts] A continuous flow of reports and information on more crimes, abuses and atrocities committed against the defenseless and innocent population by the murderous and criminal communist Maputo troops has been reaching us. Samora Machel knows his days are numbered. However, this does not prevent him from ordering his agents to spread destruction and death among the population to avenge the struggle which is being waged against his corrupt regime, and to attempt to make up for the defeats that his ragtag soldiers have suffered.

In Sofala, for instance, they have murdered more than 200 defenseless and innocent members of the population with the help of Robert Mugabe's notorious 5th Brigade. About 150 houses were set on fire. Why? What is the reason and what have they achieved with such a massacre? Nothing. The people in question were not members nor militants of the Resistance. Machel and Mugabe agents only wanted to discharge their murderous fury on totally defenseless and unarmed children, old people, and women.

What have they achieved with such deeds? Nothing. The popular struggle against these crimes has intensified. The just popular war against the regime has increased, instead of tapering off as hoped by Machel and his death machine agents. For these murderers and bandits, who are nothing but cowardly rats, the people have the answer, and the people will give them the just and due punishment.

Broadcasts To Be Suspended for 'Modifications'

*MB150902 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National
Resistance in Portuguese 0400 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] Dear listeners, Mozambican brothers: As in the past, whenever we have modified our programs or our equipment, we have had to stop our broadcasts during the time we needed to do the modifications. The same is going to happen now, because we are going to install a new type of transmitter and this could take (??) weeks. Until the inauguration of the new equipment our broadcasts will stop. [words indistinct] the programs will be on the air again, broadcasting the news of the struggle which is spreading through the country and broadcasting our message of freedom. War and death to the enemies of the people! The struggle continues!

NAMIBIA

Territorial Forces Report 30 SWAPO Insurgents Killed

*MB141820 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1752 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] Windhoek, March 14, SAPA — The security forces in SWA/Namibia have killed 30 SWAPO insurgents and have

captured large quantities of arms from Eastern countries during the past week, the SWATF announced in a press release in Windhoek this evening.

A tiny group of insurgents launched a stand-off mortar attack on two temporary bases of the security forces last Sunday evening. Another security force base at Oshikuku in the Ovambo area came under bombardment with 15 to 20 82mm mortars. No damage was caused and there was no loss of life on the part of the security forces. However, two civilians were slightly injured and taken to the military sick-bay, while two goats died in the attack.

Another base at Ongumwelum was attacked by insurgents when they threw six 82mm mortars [as received]. None hit the target.

The statement further said two civilians were killed in cold-blood by SWAPO insurgents in western Kavango on March 6, while a rail line near Bobos in the north was damaged by explosives.

The statement said the South African component of the Joint Disengagement Monitoring Commission had been informed of SWAPO's latest acts.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Welcomes Kaunda Offer To Host Summit

*MB141400 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Excerpts] At Komatipoort, officials of South Africa and Mozambique met again this morning to finalise arrangements for the Nkomati ceremony on Friday near the town.

Mr Botha will probably board a train at the station and be taken to the strip of no man's land between South African and Mozambican territory.

It was announced a short while ago that a Swaziland delegation headed by the prime minister, Prince Bhhekimpi, is to attend the signing ceremony at Komatipoort. Among those accompanying him will be two members of the Swaziland Supreme Council of State, four cabinet ministers, the commissioner of police, and the chief of army staff.

SAPA reports, meanwhile, that the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has welcomed the offer by President Kaunda of Zambia to act as host at a summit meeting of frontline states and South Africa. Mr Botha said the government was in favor of such a meeting in principle because it believed that the problems of southern Africa should be solved by the leaders of the region themselves.

Guests, Security for Nkomati Accord Signing Detailed

*MB150922 Johannesburg International Service
in English 0630 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Text] The Lubombo border post between South Africa and Mozambique will be closed this evening and the South African

Air Force has declared the airspace above Komatipoort a restricted area in preparation for the signing of the nonaggression pact between South Africa and Mozambique tomorrow. Strict security has been introduced for the ceremony. Road and rail links between the two countries will be suspended through the border post until Saturday morning. The airspace above Komatipoort has been restricted to a height of about 3,300 meters, and a radius of about 27 km.

About a thousand very important persons and journalists will witness the signing ceremony. It is still unclear how many African heads of state will be attending. The foreign minister of Botswana, Mr Archie Mogwe, has announced in Parliament in Gaborone that Botswana will not be attending the ceremony. He said envoys from President Samora Machel of Mozambique had informed President Quett Masire of Botswana on the talks that led to the Nkomati Accord. Swaziland has confirmed that the prime minister, Prince Bhhekimpi, will be heading the Swazi delegation to the ceremony. The Tanzanian Government said it welcomed the agreement and that it was exactly what the front-line states had been demanding all along. Lesotho said it had no desire to sign such an agreement with South Africa, as Lesotho would never show aggression to its neighbor. President Mobutu of Zaire has also given his approval to the peace negotiations between South Africa and Mozambique and Angola.

Koeberg Nuclear Power Plant Started Up 14 Mar

*MB141312 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1305 GMT
14 Mar 84*

[Text] House of Assembly, March 14, SAPA — The nuclear reaction in the Koeberg power station was started at 9:25 am today. This was announced in a special statement by the minister of mineral and energy affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, at the start of today's proceedings in the House of Assembly. He said the start-up at Koeberg was "the culmination of a long road of investigation, planning, construction and safety measures which will be of great importance to South Africa."

Mr Speaker gave the minister an opportunity to make the statement, which the leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, followed by saying the P.F.P. [Progressive Federal Party] welcomed the additional power that would be added to South Africa's national power grid. "Today's event launches the era of nuclear power for South Africa," the minister said. "For a country with only two indigenous sources of power, coal and uranium, this milestone was of particular importance. Where we exported uranium in the past, these two sources of energy will in future be utilised in a complementary way in the best interest of the country. It is especially reassuring to know that as far as the safe design and operation of Koeberg is concerned, South Africa is also in the forefront and compares with the best in the world."

Here too the community could rest assured that the Atomic Energy Commission and ESCOM were recognised internationally and that safety standards would be meticulously maintained.

South Africa was proud of its scientists and engineers who had participated in the project. "I am convinced that with our oil-from-coal plants, the generating of electricity from coal and now

the added utilisation of our extensive uranium resources for generating electricity, South Africa's energy future is assured," Mr Steyn said.

Dr Slabbert said the extra power would benefit the whole of South Africa. "I believe it is important to keep a close watch on the potentially high cost of power to be generated by Koeberg and that any future establishment and location of nuclear plants in South Africa be very carefully evaluated," he said.

Nuclear power was a subject that generated fear and heated debate among the general public. This had to be taken into account and every precaution had to be taken to protect the public from danger and keep it as informed as possible in these matters.

The Conservative Party and the New Republic Party both congratulated the government on the initiation of Koeberg. The C.P. leader, Dr Andries Treurnicht, said it was a step of which South Africa could be proud.

Mr Aubrey Thompson (N.R.P. South Coast) said Koeberg signified the country's "entry into the nuclear power era" and it was fortunate South Africa had been able to learn from the expertise of the world's nuclear giants. Mr Thompson said he hoped the new reactor would introduce an age of cheaper energy for the country.

Nuclear Age Entry Hailed

*MB150958 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Koeberg nuclear power station is coming into operation, providing further tangible proof that South Africa has entered the nuclear age and is grasping at the opportunities that are offered by nuclear technology.

South Africa first entered this field of endeavor in 1949 with the formation of the Atomic Energy Board which, with the development of the giant Phelandaba/Velandaba complex, burgeoned into today's Atomic Energy Corporation. It was the corporation, through its unique uranium enrichment process, which succeeded in producing its own nuclear fuel for its Safari One reactor.

In May 1981 the chairman of the then Uranium Enrichment Corporation, Dr (Amp) Roe, disclosed that the new uranium enrichment plant would also be capable on completion of producing the 50 tons of nuclear fuel that would be consumed by Koeberg each year.

Although it is generally accepted that the Atomic Energy Corporation is capable of producing nuclear weapons, South Africa has utilized her nuclear energy strictly for peaceful purposes. The three foundation stones of South Africa's nuclear energy program remain unchanged. They are: the development of processes for the beneficiation of raw materials required in nuclear technology, the establishment of a nuclear power program meeting the needs of the country, and extensions to the utilization of

isotopes and radiation in the fields of medicine, agriculture, industry, and research in general.

The activities of the Atomic Energy Corporation have been expanding so rapidly that last year it was announced that a new nuclear research center was to be established on 2,500 hectares of land along the Mossel Bay coast. There, up to 300 scientists, engineers, technicians, and supporting personnel are to be established within the next 5 to 10 years.

Dr W.L. Grant of the Atomic Energy Corporation pointed out that circumstances could compel South Africa to eventually build her own nuclear reactors. Koeberg could be blazing the trail for a series of nuclear power stations along the South African coast — the only place where nuclear power can be generated economically.

The chairman of ESCOM [Electricity Supply Commission], Dr Jan Smith, says it remains ESCOM's main task to provide electricity throughout the country in the most effective and acceptable manner. For this reason ESCOM should not be coupled to a single or even several methods of generating power. Therefore, coal, water, and now nuclear power are jointly utilized in South Africa to generate 60 percent of Africa's electricity.

It is purely coincidental that nuclear energy is being used peacefully for the first time in South Africa to generate electricity at a time when discussions were underway to arrange ESCOM's purchases of electricity from Mozambique's Cahora Bassa scheme. This cooperation between South Africa and Mozambique has been made possible via the peace initiatives which reach a milestone tomorrow at Komatipoort. Happily therefore, the omens are good, and South Africa does not feel compelled to utilize her nuclear capacity in another direction.

Timetable for Ending Discrimination Called for

*MB100821 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English
10 Mar 84 p 7*

[Editorial: "SA Needs a Timetable"]

[Text] Dismissing a Private Member's motion introduced last week by the leader of the opposition, Dr Fredrik van Zyl Slabbert, the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said that by identifying itself with the goals set out in the preamble to the new constitution, the Government was committed to the elimination of all discrimination which caused friction and conflict.

Less than a week later, the minister of transport affairs, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, was forced to admit that Coloured and Indian cabinet ministers in the new constitution would have to journey separately from their white colleagues if they travelled by train. Earlier, Mr Schoeman had attempted to blur the issue with the fatuous contention that members of the mixed cabinet would be so busy that they would not have time to use trains and would have to travel by air.

Perhaps Mr Heunis and his fellow ministers are of the opinion that the retention of a policy that entrenches segregated rail

travel is unlikely to create inter-racial friction. Whatever their view, they would have been well-advised to have given greater thought — before dismissing it out of hand — to the sound advice contained in the leader of the Opposition's proposal.

Dr Slabbert had suggested that the Government formulate a clear and unambiguous declaration of intent on how it proposed to remove hurtful and unnecessary discrimination. He went on to say that all forms of statutory and administrative discrimination should be investigated by one of the joint standing committees in the new tricameral parliament.

For a Government which says it is intent on abandoning discriminatory legislation, Dr Slabbert's idea ought to have been welcomed. Indeed, its implementation should be viewed as an absolute necessity for there is no doubt that it would go a long way towards creating confidence in the black community and increasing support — likened by this newspaper yesterday to a small flickering flame that needs loving care and attention — for the new constitution in the Coloured and Indian communities.

But that is not all. Mr Harry Oppenheimer placed an additional and wider perspective on the issue this week when he pointed out that South Africa's reconciliation with its neighbors would eventually fail if it was not accompanied by accelerated internal reform.

That is a scenario which no sensible South African can relish and the Government would do well to diminish the likelihood of it happening. It could achieve this — and reduce local misgivings at the same time — by announcing a timetable for the abolition of discriminatory laws. Without such action there can be little hope for the success of international reform or for the long-term prospects of regional friendship and trust.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi To Lead Delegation to Nkomati Accord Signing
MB141725 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
 1600 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, will on Friday lead a 20-man Swazi delegation to Komatipoort to witness the signing of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique, at the invitation of President Samora Machel of Mozambique. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today said the Swazi delegation will include, among others: two members of the Supreme Council of State, Ligoqo; the minister for foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini; the minister of defense and youth, Colonel Fonono Duba; the minister of labor and public service, Mr Mhlangano Matsebula; the minister of works and communication, Chief Siphon Shongwe; the principal secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Z.L. Mkhonta; the commissioner of police, Mr T. Msibi; the Army chief of staff, Colonel M. Ndzimandze; Senator M. Ntlabatsi; Member of Parliament S.M. Dlamini, and other high-ranking government officials. Journalists from all over the world are expected to cover the ceremony.

The accord will be signed by the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and Mozambique's president, Samora Machel.

ZAMBIA

Prime Minister Praises Korean Tripartite Talks
MB141444 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
 13 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has said that Zambia is happy to learn that there is a possibility of a tripartite meeting between the two Koreas and the United States. Speaking when outgoing DPRK Ambassador Chae Hwa-sop called on him today, Mr Mundia said there was hope for a solution and that the fateful dam, a threat to the world peace, could be removed. The prime minister reiterated Zambia's stand on the reunification of North and South Korea as a key to peace to that region. Mr Mundia said Zambia appreciates DPRK's assistance in agriculture and other fields. Chae Hwa-sop said in reply that his country puts Zambia in high esteem, because of her contributions to the liberation of southern Africa.

Party Disagrees With Newspaper Remarks on UNITA
MB150815 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
 15 Mar 84

[Text] A Freedom House spokesman has said that the party has dissociated itself from the contents of yesterday's *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* editorial on the current situation in southern Africa, especially with regard to its reference to UNITA rebels and the situation in Zimbabwe.

The spokesman said the party and its government does not recognize the rebel movement, and that the solution to this problem is a matter for the Angolan Government. He said the party and its government reject South Africa's proposal for a meeting between Angola, South Africa, SWAPO, and the UNITA rebels to discuss the Angolan and Namibian situations.

The spokesman also corrected the paper for implying that the present situation in southern Africa was a confrontation between South Africa and SWAPO, and between the MPLA and UNITA.

ZIMBABWE

Traditional Chiefs Protest Loss of Authority
MB151025 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English
 to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] We see that the traditional chiefs of Manicaland are demanding the regime return their powers of authority. In a turbulent meeting with the new ZANU-PF provincial chairman, Edgar Tekere, they say the [word indistinct] spirits were offended by the changes brought about. We all know that their hereditary responsibility for their land has been taken away by the regime and their courts have been abolished in favor of village and community courts.

As one venerable old chief succinctly phrased it, we have been made the laughingstock of the people. And another pointed out: If the spirits are offended, it's no wonder we're without rain. The chiefs and headmen have demanded a meeting with Robert Mugabe, and we can foresee another stormy confrontation if such a meeting takes place.

ZANU-PF [words indistinct] has always done everything in its power to reduce or to nullify the powers of the traditional leaders the Africans are used to. [passage indistinct] The old customs and respect for traditional authority are not going to be jettisoned by the tribesmen just because a communist movement says they must. The roots go too deep and are too old.